

**INSIDE TODAY**

**U.S. NEWS**

**HOLOCAUST SHOOTER**



This undated file photo provided by the Talbot County, Md., Sheriff Office shows James von Brunn. A government official said Wednesday Jan. 6, 2010, von Brunn, the 89-year-old man accused of a deadly shooting at Washington's Holocaust museum in June 2009 has died in a prison hospital in Butner, North Carolina.

Read more on Page A5

**SPORTS NEWS**

**ZERO OUT**



In this Jan. 5, 2010 photo, Washington Wizards' Gilbert Arenas watches a free-throw attempt. Arenas was suspended without pay Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2010, by NBA commissioner David Stern

Read more on Page A12

**Price of a barrel of petroleum**  
**US\$ 83.18**  
 ↑ 1.41

**SECTION B**

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Icicles cling to oranges Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2010, in Lakeland, Fla. Farmers spray their crops to help protect them against the cold temperatures. Temperatures in the area dipped into the mid-20's, and farmers are working to salvage millions of dollars' worth of strawberries and other crops.

Associated Press

# Persistent cold tightens grip on much of the U.S.

By RANDALL DICKERSON  
 Associated Press Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The freeze that lingered over much of the nation Wednesday was expected to be followed by strong winds and more bitter cold through the Midwest and deep into the South. The unusually persistent Southern cold snap has been blamed for at least six deaths and threatened to freeze Florida citrus crops. The cold was expected to continue through the weekend. The National Weather Service predicted the

heaviest snow from the fast-moving system would fall on Iowa, Missouri and Illinois, with 4-6 inches predicted along with some locally heavier amounts through Thursday. In a rare turn for the South, forecasters warned that snow and ice were possible Thursday from South Carolina to Louisiana and wind chills in the region could get down to near zero at night. "This air mass originated on the ice cap at the top of the world," said Bobby Boyd, a weather service forecaster in

Nashville. He said the cold shot wouldn't be spent until it plunged southeastward and moved well beyond Cuba into the Caribbean.

Continued on Page 5

## Anti-whaling boat damaged during protest at sea

ROHAN SULLIVAN

Associated Press Writer

SYDNEY (AP) — A clash Wednesday off Antarctica between a Japanese whaler and a boat from a protest group partly bankrolled by former game show host Bob Barker left the anti-whaling vessel badly damaged and each side accusing the other of life-threatening behavior. The bow of the *Ady Gil* — a sleek, wave-piercing power boat that resembles a stealth bomber — was sheared off by the *Shonan Maru*.

It was the latest in a series of escalating confrontations between the U.S.-based Sea Shepherd Conservation Society and the Japanese whaling fleet. Only minor injuries were reported aboard the *Ady Gil*. New Zealand's marine safety authority said it was launching an investigation into the clash and that Australia's equivalent body would be cooperating closely.

Continued on Page 9

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# Obama announces \$250M teacher training initiative



President Barack Obama smiles as he arrives in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2010, to speak at a ceremony honoring educators for awards received for excellence in mathematics and science teaching and mentoring.

*Associated Press*

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama announced a \$250 million initiative Wednesday to train math and science teachers and help meet his goal of pushing America's

students from the middle to the top of the pack in those subjects in the next decade.

Obama also gave awards for excellence in teaching and mentoring to more than 100 educators — and joked about

putting them to work.

"I believe so strongly in the work that you do," Obama said at a ceremony in the White House East Room. "And as I mentioned to some of you, because I've got two girls upstairs with math tests coming up, I figure that a little extra help from the best of the best couldn't hurt."

"So you're going to have assignments after this," he said. The audience laughed.

"These awards were not free," he added.

Obama said teacher quality is the most important single factor that influences whether students succeed or fail in the "STEM" fields of science, technology, engineering and math. But, he said, U.S. students trail their peers around the world.

He said a substantial shortage of teachers in these subject areas will deepen unless steps are taken to reverse the trend, and that doing so requires outside help because the federal government cannot do it alone.

Obama said the \$250 million in public and private investments for his "Educate to Innovate" campaign

will help train more than 100,000 teachers and prepare more than 10,000 new educators in the next five years.

Support is expected from Intel Corp., the National Math and Science Initiative, PBS and the National Science Teachers Association, the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation and the presidents of more than 75 of the country's largest public universities.

Obama also called on the 200,000 scientists who work for the federal government to help by speaking at schools and participating in hands-on projects to help stoke a youngster's curiosity in science.

"Make no mistake: Our future is on the line," he said. "The nation that out-educates us today is going to out-compete us tomorrow."

Obama, who has included students in several science events at the White House, said he would do his part, too. Planning is under way for a White House science fair to honor student winners of national science and technology competitions, he said. □



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# CIA attack a blow but won't stop anti-terror hunt

ADAM GOLDMAN  
PAMELA HESS

Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) —

The deaths of seven CIA employees in Afghanistan probably will not be the last. The U.S. isn't pulling back on covert operations to hunt terrorists there and in Pakistan and will go on taking chances on human tipsters to help.

In fact, the United States struck back at militant targets in Pakistan on Wednesday with explosives apparently launched from an airborne drone — the first responses since the bombing that killed several top CIA operatives at a secretive eastern Afghan base reportedly used as a key outpost in the effort to identify and target terror leaders.

The attack was a lethal message that the Obama administration views its airstrikes as too effective to abandon, even though they are unpopular with civilians and the U.S.-backed governments in both Afghanistan and Pakistan. The apparent strikes killed at least 12 people in an area of Pakistan's volatile northwest teeming with militants suspected of directing the suicide attack last week across the border in Afghanistan.

The U.S. deaths were a reminder that while the use of drones may lessen the risk to American pilots, the CIA-run operation has its own human Achilles' heel: the intelligence agents who practice old-fashioned spycraft to pinpoint the targets.

The attack came as a severe blow to the expertise and talent pool of the CIA in a little-understood country where its spies are now most at risk.

Charles Faddis, a former agency case officer, said it was a major strike to agency operations in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

"CIA is a small outfit," said Faddis, who recently published "Beyond Repair," a scathing assessment of the agency. "You don't lose this many people in one strike and not feel it acutely."

The bomber, a Jordanian doctor identified as Humam Khalil Abu-Mulal al-Balawi, was apparently a double agent

— perhaps even a triple-agent — who had been considered a key asset. Al-Balawi was invited inside the outpost facility bearing a promise of information about al-Qaida's second in command, presumed to be hiding in Pakistan.

A federal law enforcement official said Tuesday that the bomber entered the base by car and detonated a powerful explosive just outside the base's gym where CIA operatives and others had gathered. It was unclear whether the explosives were hidden in a suicide vest or belt, but they set off a "significant blast," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the investigation.

A small team of FBI agents, including bomb and evidence technicians, flew to the remote Afghan base soon after the blast, the official said. The team, which is working closely with the CIA, has since returned and is still trying to identify the components of the explosives and whether they included shrapnel.

Several current and former intelligence and defense officials said the deaths of the CIA agents and the others were a foreseeable cost of doing business with unsavory people in dangerous places.

"The attacks confirm what has been the CIA's view all along: that undertaking intelligence operations requires taking risks, and while those risks can be diminished by excellent tradecraft, hard work, and smart people, they can never be eliminated," said former CIA officer Steven Cash.

The CIA is taking heat from some of its own former employees, however, for apparently taking unnecessary risks in this case by failing to search the bomber before he penetrated the base's security perimeter. They also raised questions about why more than a dozen U.S. personnel were close by when al-Balawi detonated explosives strapped to his body.

Two CIA operatives might have been plenty, former CIA officials said. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss what

they called tradecraft, or agency procedures.

Bruce Riedel, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institute Saban Center and a former CIA officer, said the agency would now likely be scrubbing its other sources in the region to ensure they are legitimate.

"If the other side was running this one person against us, how confident are we of everyone else?" Riedel said. "You have to take a period to assess where you are."

However, Riedel said the CIA is aware, especially after the Dec. 25 attempted bombing of an airliner in Detroit, that it doesn't have the luxury of time.

Riedel said the bait that al-Balawi was offering — the location of al-Qaida No. 2 Ayman al-Zawahri, was too tempting to resist.

"We haven't had real location on either him or bin Laden in years," he said.

Bad as the suicide attack was, several current and former intelligence officials said the CIA has a deep bench of operatives with experience in Afghanistan, after eight years of active warfare and the Cold War decades in which Afghanistan was considered strategic.

There are no immediate plans to close the once-secret military base where the bomber killed the CIA base chief for Khost province and wounded the Kabul deputy station chief, and the CIA is expected to quickly rebuild its operations there.

A U.S. intelligence official said the agency has increased the size and scope of its operations in Afghanistan and is continuing its counterterrorism mission as before.

Military officials said there may be additional security precautions for people entering the kind of forward operating base that houses the CIA operation. But the CIA controls many of the decisions about whom to meet and where, and how thoroughly to search a presumed informant. Informants are sometimes invited to secure bases because of the security risk involved in sending undercover employees



Jordanian boys climb the wall of an UNRWA clinic, where Jordanian suicide bomber Humam Khalil Abu-Mulal al-Balawi used to work as a physician in Zarqa city, East of Amman, Jordan, Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2010. Suicide bomber Al-Balawi struck a key CIA base Forward Operating Base Chapman in Afghanistan, near the Pakistani border last week, killing seven CIA employees and a Jordanian intelligence officer.

Associated Press

or other operatives outside intelligence and military the base, current and former officials said. □

## Special Of the Month!

<b>Appetizer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fish Soup</li> <li>• Onion Soup</li> <li>• Conch Fritters</li> <li>• Escargot</li> <li>• Salad</li> </ul>
<b>Entrée</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fresh Catch of the Day</b> prepared by our local chef just the way you like it.</li> <li>• <b>Jumbo Shrimp</b> from our local waters, breaded served with potato or rice or with garlic tossed over linguine.</li> <li>• <b>Filet Mignon*</b> 8 oz. US Tenderloin</li> <li>• <b>Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast</b></li> </ul>
<b>Dessert</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chocolate or Banana Cake</li> <li>• Ice Cream</li> <li>• Coffee / Tea</li> </ul>

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# Two democratic senators and one governor set to retire

LIZ SIDOTI

**AP National Political Writer**  
**WASHINGTON** — With the 2010 election year barely under way in the United States, two senators and one governor — all Democrats — ditched plans to run for re-election in the latest signs of trouble for President Barack Obama's party.

Taken together, the decisions by Senators Chris Dodd and Byron Dorgan as well as Colorado Governor Bill Ritter caused another bout of heartburn for Democrats as they struggle to defend themselves in a sour political environment for incumbents, particularly the party in charge.

As 2009 ended, Democrats watched a string of their House members announce retirements and one congressman defect to the Republican Party.



This combination of three images taken Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2010 shows, from left: Sen. Chris Dodd, D-Conn., Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., and Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter. With the 2010 election year barely under way, two senators and one governor — all Democrats — ditched plans to run for re-election in the latest signs of trouble for President Barack Obama's party.

*Associated Press*

Now, with Dodd, Dorgan and Ritter out, Republicans have even more to crow about, if not better opportunities to pick up Democratic-held seats. Democrats, who have a 60-40 Senate majority that includes two independents who vote with them, now

will have to defend four open seats in the Senate. The other two currently belong to Senators Ted Kaufman, who replaced Vice President Joe Biden, and Roland Burris, who replaced Obama. Kaufman and Burris are not running for election to the seats. Republicans, for their part, are defending six open seats.

All seats in the House of Representatives and a third of the seats in the Senate will be on the ballot in the November midterm election. Analysts generally expect Democrats to lose seats, while keeping their majorities in both chambers.

But the loss of even a few seats in the Senate could be detrimental to Democrats, who need 60 votes to overcome Republican procedural obstacles. If Republicans continue to stand united against Obama, it could lead to political gridlock in the second half of his four-year term.

That increases pressure on Obama to get any major legislation — such as his health care overhaul or a climate change bill — passed this year. Yet

even with commanding majorities, Obama has struggled to keep his party united on health care and other initiatives.

Among governors, Democrats are seeking to maintain their 26-24 majority in a year when those elected will oversee the redrawing of congressional and legislative districts for the next decade.

Republicans and Democrats alike say they now expect competitive races for Dorgan's Senate seat in North Dakota, a Republican-tilting state, and the governor's seat in Colorado, a pivotal swing state that has trended toward Democrats in recent years but may be shifting back toward Republicans.

In Democratic-leaning Connecticut, Dodd's retirement may actually heighten the likelihood that the seat he's held for five terms will remain in Democratic hands.

The party can now recruit a more popular candidate to run, bolstering the prospects of thwarting a Republican victory. The former presidential candidate's poll standing has fallen precipitously since 2008.

Dodd announced his retirement Wednesday. The 66-year-old is chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, which was at the center of efforts to deal with the economic meltdown.

And he has played a prominent role in the contentious debate about overhauling health care, taking over for his friend Sen. Ted Kennedy during his illness and then after his death. Dodd underwent surgery for

prostate cancer in August; he said it was in an early, treatable stage.

Hours after Dodd's announcement, fellow Democrat Richard Blumenthal, one of the state's most popular politicians, announced he would run for Dodd's seat. He is the longtime Connecticut attorney general.

In North Dakota, Dorgan's announcement Tuesday that he would retire stunned Democrats. They were confident that the 67-year-old moderate Democrat would run for re-election in the Republican-leaning state even as rumors intensified that the state's Republican governor would challenge him.

In Colorado, Ritter announced Wednesday he won't seek re-election as the western state's governor this year, saying he needs to spend more time with his family. Elected in 2006, Ritter was among those Democrats who helped the party make inroads into what was once a solidly Republican state. He helped pave the way for Obama to win Colorado in 2008 and had been widely considered a rising star in the Democratic Party. □

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# Accused Holocaust museum gunman dies

DEVLIN BARRETT  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The 89-year-old white supremacist charged in a deadly shooting at Washington's Holocaust museum died Wednesday in North Carolina, where he'd been held while awaiting trial, authorities said.

James von Brunn died at a local hospital in North Carolina, said Denise Simmons, the spokeswoman for the federal prison where von Brunn had been held. He had been suffering from chronic congestive heart failure, sepsis and other health problems, she said. Von Brunn, who faced charges that carried the death penalty, had been receiving medical care for months at the prison complex in Butner, which is known for its medical facilities for aging and sick federal inmates. His lawyer, A.J. Kramer, called the death "a sad end to a tragic situation" and declined to make further comment.

Authorities say von Brunn carried a rifle as he walked up to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum on June 10 and then shot security guard Stephen T. Johns, who was black, as he opened the door for von Brunn. He was wounded by gunfire from two other guards.

Officials at the prison hospital had previously said chronic medical problems had complicated a psychiatric evaluation

for the suspect, who prior to the shooting had written racist and anti-Semitic screeds on the Internet.

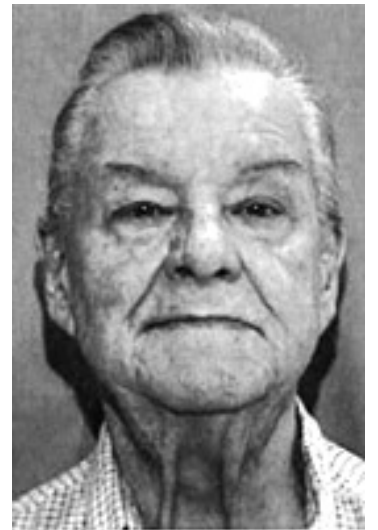
Officials at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum issued a statement saying their thoughts and prayers remained with Johns' family. "Officer Johns died heroically defending the museum, visitors and staff. This tragedy is a powerful reminder that our cause of fighting hatred remains more urgent than ever," the statement said.

One of the two guards who fired back at von Brunn said he had mixed feelings about his death. "I'm shocked. I'm glad he's gone. I wish he had his day in court, but it'll never come," said Harry Weeks of White Plains, Md.

Weeks returned to work in August and said he thinks often about his slain colleague. "There's not a day that goes by that I don't miss him," Weeks said.

A seven-count indictment against von Brunn charged him with first-degree murder, killing in a federal building and bias-motivated crime. The indictment also accused him of seeking to intimidate Jewish people at the museum.

Von Brunn had a racist Web site and wrote a book titled "Kill the Best Gentiles," alleging a Jewish conspiracy "to destroy the white gene pool." He also claimed the Holocaust was a hoax. □



This undated file photo provided by the Talbot County, Md., Sheriff Office shows James von Brunn. A government official said Wednesday Jan. 6, 2010, von Brunn, the 89-year-old man accused of a deadly shooting at Washington's Holocaust museum in June 2009 has died in a prison hospital in Butner, North Carolina.

Associated Press



Pasquale Mariniello, left, and Rossella Esposito, of Naples, Italy, walk in the sand in the South Beach area of Miami Beach, Fla., Wednesday, Jan 6, 2010. The morning temperature in Miami-Dade was in the low 40's.

## PERSISTENT COLD

Continued from Front Page

Authorities said four people in Tennessee, one in Mississippi and one in South Carolina have died from the cold since the weekend. They included a man with Alzheimer's who wandered out into his yard in Nashville and froze to death, and a homeless man found dead in a tent in South Carolina.

The total doesn't include people who died in car accidents on icy roads and

in fires started by stoves and space heaters.

The frigid weather hampered northern firefighters and even made life hard for Florida's tree dwelling iguanas.

In central and south Florida, farmers tried to salvage citrus and vegetable crops by spraying them in protective layers of ice and covering them in plastic.

It was so cold in Florida, freezing iguanas were seen falling out of

trees. Experts say the cold-blooded reptiles become immobilized when the temperature falls into the 40s and they lose their grip on the tree.

In Indianapolis, frozen hydrants frustrated firefighters as they tried to put out a Tuesday night blaze at a commercial building.

Officials said the city of Des Moines is likely to exhaust the remainder of its \$3 million annual snow removal budget with this week's storm, expected to dump up to as much as 10 inches of snow in some areas. That is on top of the more than 28 inches of snow that fell there in December.

Oklahoma's two largest school districts have canceled classes for the rest of the week because of subfreezing temperatures. Some of the schools in several other states, including Mississippi, Alabama and Missouri, were expected to close Thursday because of the weather.

In the Dakotas, Interstate 90 between Rapid City and Mitchell in South Dakota was closed Wednesday because of zero visibility that led to backed-up traffic and some crashes.

Joe Dietrich, who owns a snowblower repair shop in Bismarck, N.D., said

bitter cold and snow have been so good for business, he had to turn away dozens of repairs this week.

"My building is only so big and I can only take so many," he said.

Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear has declared a state of emergency in Perry County, where water line breaks have left large swaths of the area without water.

Much of the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina and Virginia was closed to motorists because of heavy accumulations of snow and ice as well as downed trees.

In Maine, a pilot died Monday after he reported ice buildup on the wings of his small plane and it crashed into a river channel. Searchers were also looking for an 18-year-old snowmobiler who disappeared on New Year's Day. And in Wisconsin a 7-year-old boy died when he fell through ice into a river while sledding with friends.

In coastal North Carolina, volunteers were scrambling to save endangered sea turtles that were stunned by the cold and stranded off the Outer Banks. Southern supermarkets were doing a brisk business in staples like bread and milk. □



# U.S. mother, baby girl killed by elephant in Kenya



Friends and colleagues wait outside Lee Funeral Home in Nairobi, Kenya to attend funeral services Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2010 for U.S. teacher Sharon Brown, 39, and her daughter Margaux, 1, who were trampled to death by an elephant while on a guided nature walk on Monday .

By JASON STRAZIUSO  
Associated Press Writer  
NAIROBI, Kenya – A lone elephant charged out of the brush as an American family was hiking near Mount Kenya and trampled to death a mother

and the 1-year-old daughter she held in her arms, officials said Wednesday. Four adults and the baby were walking with an unarmed guide just outside Mount Kenya National Park on

Monday morning when the elephant charged, said Kenya Wildlife Service official Michael Kipkeu. The family was hiking on a nature trail about 1 mile from the Castle Forest Lodge, where the family was vacationing, said the owner, Melia van Laar. “The elephant emerged from the bush at full speed without any warning,” van Laar said. “Everybody ran away, but the lady, burdened by the weight of the baby, perhaps, or in panic, was not able to run fast enough.” Officials identified the woman as Sharon Brown, 39, and said her daughter’s name was Margaux. Brown, originally from New York, and her husband are listed as faculty members at the International School of Kenya. Friends and colleagues at the American-curriculum

K-12 school held a memorial service Wednesday. Walking tours of Kenya’s many national parks are common, though hikers are advised to have an armed guard with them if the park is known to have elephants, said Kentice Tikolo, a spokeswoman for the Kenya Wildlife Service. “It was a lone elephant and lone elephants can be quite dangerous,” Tikolo said. “It probably felt quite threatened.” Tikolo said deaths by charging elephants are rare in Kenya, though they happen about once a year. Because the Castle Forest Lodge lies just outside the boundary of Mount Kenya National Park, the family was walking with a hotel guide, who is not allowed to carry a gun, said Tikolo. The national park is about 180 miles (300 kilometers) north of the

capital, Nairobi. Brown was a 1989 graduate of Miller Place High School on eastern Long Island, New York, and was a graduate of Binghamton State University with a degree in psychology, said her father, John Laurie. She later received a masters in library. She joined the Peace Corps in 1999 and spent two years in Bangladesh before being transferred after the Sept. 11 attacks. Later, she worked for the Peace Corps in Uganda. “She was an excellent student and beautiful person,” Laurie said. “She was loved by everybody and loved to travel extensively.” After leaving the Peace Corps, Brown returned to New York briefly before working for a year as a librarian at Antioch University New England in Keene, New Hampshire, her father said. □



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AT RENAISSANCE - ORANJESTAD					
PG	FANTASTIC MR: FOX				NEW
	daily: 12:00 4:00 6:00				
	matinee: 2:00			late show:	
G	THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG				
	daily: 12:15 4:45 7:00				
	matinee: 2:30			late show:	
PG-13	THE BLIND SIDE				
	daily: 1:15 4:00 6:45 9:30				
	matinee: 1:15			late show: 12:00	
PG	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS "THE SQUEAKQUEL"				
	daily: 12:00 4:00 6:00				
	matinee: 2:00			late show:	
PG	OLD DOGS				
	daily: 4:15 6:15 8:15 10:15				
	matinee: 12:15 2:15			late show: 12:15	
PG-13	2012				
	daily: 8:00				
	matinee: 11:15				
R	NINJA ASSASSIN				
	daily: 9:15				
	matinee: 11:30				
PG-13	AVATAR 3D				
	daily: 1:15 4:30 7:45 11:00				
	matinee: 1:15			late show: 11:00	
R	THE MAN WHO STARE AT GOATS				
	daily: 8:00 10:15 12:30				
	matinee: 12:30				
AT PASEO HERENCIA					
R	IT'S COMPLICATED				NEW
	daily: 6:45 9:15				
	matinee: 11:45				
PG-13	SHERLOCK HOLMES				
	daily: 5:30 8:30				
	matinee: 2:30			late show: 11:30	
PG	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS "THE SQUEAKQUEL"				
	daily: 4:00 6:00				
	matinee: 12:00 2:00			late show:	
G	THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG				
	daily: 4:30				
	matinee: 12:00 2:15			late show:	
PG-13	2012				
	daily: 8:00				
	matinee: 11:15				
PG-13	DID YOY HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS				
	daily: 5:00				
	matinee: 12:30 2:45			late show:	
PG-13	AVATAR 3D				
	daily: 4:45 8:00 11:15				
	matinee: 1:30			late show: 11:15	
R	ARMORED				
	daily: 7:30 9:30				
	matinee: 11:30				
PG-13	THE IMAGINARIUM OF DOCTOR PARNASSUS				
	daily: 6:00 8:45				
	matinee: 12:45 3:30			late show: 11:30	



# Gunmen kill seven at Egypt church after Christmas Mass

By SARAH EI DEEB  
Associated Press Writer

CAIRO – Gunmen killed at least seven people in a drive-by shooting outside a church in southern Egypt as worshippers left a midnight Mass for Coptic Christmas Thursday, the church bishop, security and hospital officials said.

The attack took place in the early morning hours in the town of Nag Hamadi in Qena province, about 40 miles from the famous ancient ruins of Luxor.

Bishop Kirolos of the Nag Hamadi Diocese, a hospital administrator and a local security official all said seven people were killed in the attack. The security official said three people were seriously wounded as well.

The security official said two gunmen drove by a

group as they were walking out of the Virgin Mary church and sprayed gunfire randomly into the crowd. The security and hospital officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media. Qena is one of Egypt's poorest and most conservative areas.

Christians, mostly Coptic, account for about 10 percent of Egypt's predominantly Muslim population.

Muslim-Christian clashes, largely confined to the south of the country in recent years, have seeped into the capital. As Islamic conservatism gains ground, Christians have increasingly complained about discrimination by the Muslim majority.

In summer 2008 in southern Egypt, a Muslim man was killed in clashes over the



Pope Shenouda III, the head of Egypt's Coptic Orthodox church, leads prayers at the Coptic Cathedral in Cairo, Egypt, early Thursday, Jan. 7, 2010. Gunmen attacked in a drive-by shooting outside a church in southern Egypt in the town of Nag Hamadi in Qena province, as worshippers left a midnight Mass to celebrate Coptic Christmas.

Associated Press

expansion of a Coptic Orthodox monastery, and Muslims torched Christian

villagers' homes because a priest was seen holding Mass inside a house, according to

the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights, a rights group. □



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# Officials: Suspected U.S. drones kill 13 in Pakistan

RASOOL DAWAR

Associated Press Writer

ISLAMABAD (AP) —

Suspected U.S. drone missile strikes killed 13 people in Pakistan's volatile northwest Wednesday, the latest of five such attacks in the past week targeting an area believed to be a hideout for militants involved in a suicide attack on a CIA base in Afghanistan.

The strikes highlight Washington's growing reliance on unmanned aircraft to control militants staging cross-border attacks on U.S. troops in Afghanistan. The Obama administration has pressed Pakistan to crack down on such groups, but the government has resisted, saying it has its hands full battling local Taliban militants waging war against the state. U.S. military commanders are especially concerned about the Haqqani network, an Afghan Taliban group with links to al-Qaida which operates from Pakistan's North Waziristan tribal area. Analysts suspect the group played a role in the Dec. 30 attack that killed seven CIA employees in Khost province, just across the border from



Pakistani tribals stand among the debris of houses after a suspected US air-strike in Jani Khel area in northwestern Bannu district in 2008. US missiles flattened an extremist fort used as a training centre in Pakistan's tribal belt on Wednesday, killing four militants in the fourth such strike in a week, Pakistani officials said.

(AFP File/Karim Khan)

North Waziristan.

Since the attack, suspected U.S. drones have carried out an unusually high number of strikes in North Waziristan, part of a larger trend of President Barack Obama using the aircraft more frequently

in Pakistan than had his predecessor.

In the first attack Wednesday, a suspected drone fired two missiles at a house in the Datta Khel region of North Waziristan, killing seven people, said two intelligence

officials.

A second strike occurred as people were retrieving bodies from the rubble of the house, killing six more, said the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media. Four foreigners, including two Arabs, were among the dead; it was unclear whether they were militants or civilians, according to another pair of intelligence officials, speaking on condition of anonymity for the same reason. The identities of the others killed were unknown. U.S. officials rarely discuss the missile strikes but say they have taken out several top al-Qaida operatives.

Mahmood Shah, a former security chief for Pakistan's semiautonomous tribal area, said he believes the drone strikes over the past week are retaliation for the suicide attack against the CIA.

The Americans "have concluded that the Haqqani network is causing major problems in eastern Afghanistan, and they seem determined to hit the network, so we should expect more frequent attacks in North Waziristan," said Shah.

Analysts say it would have been difficult for the suicide attack at the remote CIA base to

have been carried out without at least tacit support from the Haqqanis, who control large swaths of Khost province. Any other militants who operate in Khost, including al-Qaida, do so only with the permission or cooperation of the Haqqanis.

The Jordanian man who blew himself up duped agents into granting him entry by leading them to think he would help track down al-Qaida's No. 2 leader, Ayman al-Zawahri, officials have said.

Humam Khalil Abu-Mulal al-Balawi, a 32-year-old doctor, was allowed to enter without being closely searched and then blew himself up during a briefing, killing seven CIA employees and a Jordanian intelligence agent.

The network targeted in the aftermath of the attacks is led by Jalaluddin Haqqani, who was a respected commander and key U.S. and Pakistani ally in resisting the Soviet Union after its 1979 invasion of Afghanistan. Haqqani, believed to be in his 60s or older, is said to be too ill to do much now, and his son Sirajuddin has taken over the network. Some analysts suspect Pakistan's reluctance to go after the Haqqanis is driven by its desire to use the group as a future asset to influence Afghanistan and stay ahead of its bigger regional rival, India, after the Americans withdraw.

But Shah, the former tribal security chief, said that even if Pakistan wanted to target the Haqqanis, its ability is limited by the shortage of human intelligence in North Waziristan.

Pakistani intelligence officials have said that at least 30 of their operatives have been killed over the past year in North Waziristan.

Shah said the lack of intelligence hampers the effectiveness of the drone strikes by making it more difficult to choose accurate targets. "Pakistan's intelligence ability is almost zero in the border region because of the high rate of killing spies," said Shah. "In such situations, these attacks are proving counterproductive and producing more militants." □

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## ANTI WHALING

Continued from Front Page

Japan kills about 1,200 whales a year during the December-February season. Sea Shepherd sends ships to try to stop the Japanese hunt, which Tokyo says is for scientific research but conservationists suspect is a cover for commercial whaling.

Sea Shepherd's aggressive and confrontational tactics have drawn criticism in the past from Greenpeace, which is seeking to change Japanese attitudes toward whaling by cultivating political allies in parliament.

Sea Shepherd's efforts have spawned the Animal Planet TV series "Whale Wars," which has helped win the group high-profile patrons.

Among the group's financial backers is Barker, the former "Price is Right" host who recently gave Sea Shepherd \$5 million. The activists named a vessel the Bob Barker, which was near the scene of the clash and rescued the crew of the stricken Ady Gil.

Paul Watson, Sea Shepherd's founder, vowed to continue to confront the whaling fleet.

"The Japanese whalers have now escalated this conflict very violently," Watson said in a statement from aboard another Sea Shepherd vessel, the Steve Irwin, which he is captaining. The vessel, named for the late Australian conservationist, was about 570 miles (900 kilometers) away from the Ady Gil.

"We now have a real whale war on our hands now and we have no intention of retreating," he added.

Barker, a longtime animal rights advocate, said news of the clash came as a shock.

"To think I had just become involved in it, then they had the worst accident that they've had. I thought, 'Barker, what have you brought onto these people?'" he said.

He said he steadfastly supports Sea Shepherd and was grateful that his namesake ship was able to help.

"I knew that they get in there and try to get between the whalers and the whales," said Barker, 86.

Watson and Barker met through a fellow activist.

"He said he thought he could put the Japanese whaling fleet

out of business if he had \$5 million," Barker said earlier. "I said, 'I think you do have the skills to do that, and I have \$5 million, so let's get it on,' so that's what we did."

Both sides involved in Wednesday's incident gave conflicting versions of what happened.

Sea Shepherd said the Shonan Maru deliberately rammed the 78-foot (24-meter) Ady Gil as it sat idle in the water near Commonwealth Bay. Representatives of Japan's Institute of Cetacean Research, which oversees the whaling fleet, said the activists caused the incident when the carbon fiber and Kevlar trimaran veered into the Shonan Maru's path.

The whaling institute said the Ady Gil came "within collision distance" of another ship on Wednesday, the Nisshin Maru, and repeatedly dangled a rope that could have entangled the ship's rudder and propeller. The Ady Gil's crew lobbed small projectiles designed to release a foul smell, and the whalers responded by firing high-powered hoses to keep the Sea Shepherd vessels away, the institute said in a statement.

Locky Maclean, the first mate of the Steve Irwin ship, said one of Ady Gil's crew appeared to have suffered two cracked ribs, but the five others aboard were uninjured. Toshinori Uoya, a spokesman for Japan's Fisheries Agency, which provides grants to the institute and oversees whaling policy, said there were no injuries on the Japanese side.

Glenn Inwood, a spokesman for the whaling institute, said the Ady Gil was moving toward the Shonan Maru and the crash occurred because of an apparent miscalculation by the activists. He said video shot from the Shonan Maru shows the conservationists' boat moving toward the whaler just before the collision.

"The Shonan Maru steams to port to avoid a collision. I guess they, the Ady Gil, miscalculated," Inwood told AP.

Video shot by Sea Shepherd shows the Ady Gil bobbing in the water in front of the Shonan Maru, which then struck it. It was not clear from either video if the Ady Gil



**This photo provided by the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society shows the Japanese whaling ship the Shonan Maru firing high-powered hoses at the Ady Gil in the frigid waters of Antarctica on Wednesday Jan. 6, 2010. The conservation group said its vessel had its bow sheared off after it was hit by the Shonan Maru, near Commonwealth Bay. The clash was the most serious in the past several years, during which the Sea Shepherd has sent vessels into far-southern waters to try to harass the Japanese fleet into ceasing its annual whale hunt.**

had come to a full stop before being struck, or if the Shonan Maru turned to port before it struck the Ady Gil.

The clash represented a departure from the usual confrontations, said Jules Boykoff, assistant professor of politics and environmental studies at Pacific University in Oregon.

"Certainly when an actual Sea Shepherd ship gets rammed, that is an escalation," Boykoff said. "I think getting rammed, regardless of whose fault it was, shows there is violence involved." Although it would focus attention on whaling, Sea Shepherd's tactics might turn off other animal rights activists, he added.

Greg McNevin, a Greenpeace International spokesman in Amsterdam, would not comment on the incident directly, but said his group stopped sending ships to the Antarctic to confront whalers in 2008 in order to focus its efforts on changing opinion in Japan.

"We don't condone violence in any form, no matter who does it," McNevin said. "Greenpeace's position was that we would only place ourselves between the whale and the harpoon."

Animal Planet spokesman Brian Eley said Sea Shepherd has no editorial control over "Whale Wars" and that it pays the group a nominal fee for space on its vessels and for meals and incidentals.

Asked if producing the show raises the risk of violent confrontation, Eley replied: "Our production crew did not direct or control Sea Shepherd's actions. We have documented what happened, and our viewers can make their own judgments."

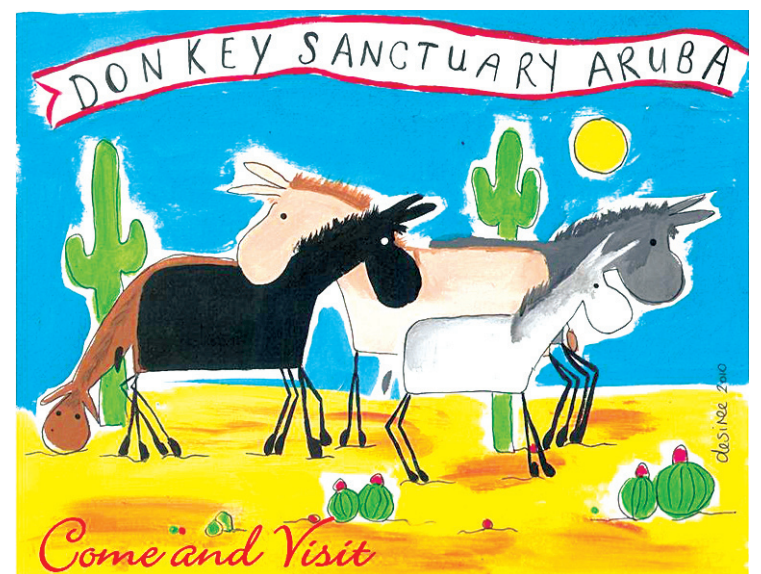
Australia and New Zealand — both opponents of whaling — have maritime safety authority in the region where the Japanese hunt occurs, and they have urged both sides

to show restraint in the frigid waters, warning that they are far away from rescue if anything goes wrong.

"The government is very concerned at this collision," Australian Environment Minister Peter Garrett said. "We condemn any dangerous or violent activity that takes place in the southern oceans. Safety at sea is an absolute priority in this dangerous and inhospitable ocean area."

New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully deplored the clash and urged both sides to "put a greater premium on human life in such a harsh environment." He said would take up the issue with Japanese authorities. □

Associated Press





# Actor Gary Coleman hospitalized in LA

LOS ANGELES – “Diff’rent Strokes” actor Gary Coleman is in a Los Angeles hospital for tests after saying he didn’t feel well.

Coleman’s agent, Robert Malcolm, says the 41-year-old actor had given interviews to complain about a scene in his latest movie and went to his hotel room to rest Wednesday. Malcolm says Coleman then began feeling unwell and was taken by ambulance to

a hospital. He didn’t have details.

Malcolm says tests were negative and the actor was alert and feeling fine but may remain hospitalized overnight before returning to his Utah home.

Coleman, had two kidney transplants, played Arnold Jackson on the popular 1980s sitcom “Diff’rent Strokes.”

His hospitalization was first reported by TMZ.com.



**FILE - In this Feb. 26, 2008 file photo, actor Gary Coleman appears on the the NBC ‘Today’ program in New York.**

(AP Photo/Richard Drew, file)

# Lawyers talk next move in Polanski case

By LINDA DEUTSCH,  
AP Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES – With Roman Polanski under house arrest in Switzerland, lawyers in his 32-year-old sex case are gathering in a Los Angeles court Wednesday to discuss future legal moves that could resolve the marathon prosecution.

The hearing is described as a status conference before Superior Court Judge Peter Espinoza, who has presided over earlier proceedings in the case.

A three-judge panel of the California 2nd District Court of Appeal criticized Polanski last month for fleeing the country and refused to dismiss the case in which the director pleaded guilty to one count of sex with a 13-year-old girl in 1977. It did, however, suggest two legal options that could lead to his freedom now: file a motion to be sentenced in absentia, or drop his extradition fight, return to the United States and be sentenced in person, most likely not resulting in additional jail time.

The appeals court said there was probable judicial and prosecutorial misconduct in the case that should be investigated. But the court’s strongest point was to urge that the case be concluded, calling it “one of the longest-running sagas in California criminal justice history.” Polanski’s lawyer asked for a private conference in the judge’s chambers, but a prosecutor prevailed in asking to make Wednesday’s session public. Deputy District Attorney David Walgren said media presence would prevent misconceptions of what might be said behind closed doors. He cited a history of “in chambers” conferences in the case that became controversial.

Polanski, the famed director of “Chinatown” and “Rosemary’s Baby,” was accused of plying Samantha Geimer, who was then 13, with champagne and part of a Quaalude pill then raping her during a modeling shoot at Jack Nicholson’s house in 1977.

Polanski was initially indicted on six felony counts, including rape by use of drugs, child molesting and sodomy. He later pleaded guilty in a plea bargain to one count of unlawful sexual intercourse. He was sent to prison for a diagnostic study. The judge, who had promised



**FILE - In this Monday, Sept. 29, 2008 file photo, Roman Polanski is seen in Oberhausen, western Germany.**

(AP Photo/Roberto Pfeil, File)

no further jail time, reneged and was planning to sentence him more harshly.

Judge Espinoza said earlier this year there appeared to be “substantial misconduct,” but Polanski had to return to the United States to argue for the case to be tossed out.

Polanski has refused to return and is fighting extradition from Switzerland, where he was arrested in September when he arrived for a film festival.

The Swiss Justice Ministry declined to comment Wednesday on the details of the Polanski case or to answer questions regarding a possible sentence in absentia.

Instead, ministry spokesman Folco Galli referred to a 1990 Swiss-U.S. treaty on extradition requiring the alleged crime be punishable by at least one year imprisonment to make extradition a possibility.

Prosecutors say Polanski is subject to a sentence of two years; the defense says he already served a sentence handed down by the original judge in the case plus five months spent in a Swiss jail and more recently under house arrest.

The treaty also spells out that if a sentence is handed down before extradition, the person must have to serve at least six months in prison. Otherwise, the person can’t be extradited.□

# Man seeks payment for LA from Jackson estate

LOS ANGELES – A man is seeking \$3.3 million for the city of Los Angeles from Michael Jackson’s estate to cover the cost of the King of Pop’s public memorial, court filings show.

Jose F. Vallejos filed a creditor’s claim for the money on Wednesday, stating he is entitled to seek reimbursement as a taxpayer.

A representative of the estate had no immediate comment.

Los Angeles paid millions of dollars for police overtime and sanitation costs for the July memorial at Staples Center, which is owned by entertainment giant AEG Live. City leaders have wrangled for months over how to try to recoup some of the money from AEG Live, but no resolution has been reached.

There have been indications the city came out ahead after hosting the star-studded memorial broadcast around the world. A city report found the July 7 memorial was a \$4 million boon for hotels, restaurants and other businesses.

Vallejos’ petition claims the estate benefited from the use of public resources that



**FILE - In this March 17, 2005 file photo, pop star Michael Jackson arrives at the Santa Barbara County Courthouse in Santa Maria, Calif.**

(AP Photo/Michael A. Mariant, file)

amounted to an illegal gift of public funds. The filing states the money should be returned to the city treasury.

Attempts to reach Vallejos failed. A phone message left for his attorney, Jeff Grotke, was not immediately returned.

The administrators of Jackson’s estate will have to decide on the merits of paying out claims.

Already, several of Jackson’s former collaborators, attorneys and those who sold the pop singer goods or services have sought reimbursement.□

# Actor Nicolas Cage owes back taxes on RI mansion

MIDDLETOWN, R.I. – Actor Nicolas Cage owes roughly \$128,000 in unpaid taxes on a mansion in Rhode Island.

Lynne Dible, finance director for the town of Middletown, says Cage is delinquent on property taxes from the last three quarters.

The Oscar-winning actor sued his former business manager in October for \$20 million, claiming the man’s advice led him toward financial ruin. Records show Cage owes millions of dollars in unpaid taxes to the IRS, and the actor says he’s had to sell numerous assets because of his finances. Cage’s ex-business manager, Samuel J. Levin, has



**2009 file photo actor Nicolas Cage participates in the press conference for “Bad Lieutenant: Port Of Call New Orleans” during the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto.**

(AP Photo/Evan Agostini, File)

countersued, saying Cage’s lavish spending is to blame.

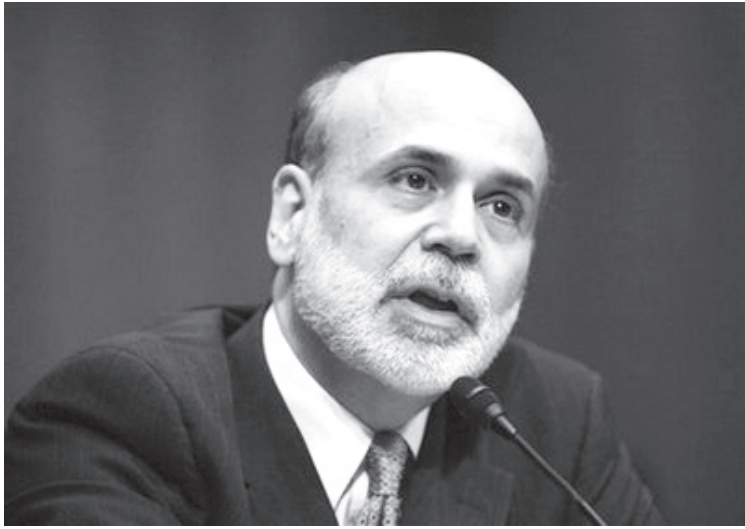
Cage’s attorney did not immediately return a call seeking comment. The Rhode Island home is on the market for \$12 million.□



## BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

## Some Fed officials conflicted on mortgage program



**FILE --** In a Dec. 3, 2009 file photo Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington. Minutes of the Fed's closed-door meeting on Dec. 15-16, 2009 revealed that a 'few members' thought that the Fed's \$1.25 trillion program to buy mortgage securities from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac might need to be expanded and extended beyond its current end date of March 31.

(AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana, File)

By JEANNINE AVERSA,  
AP Economics Writer  
WASHINGTON — Some Federal Reserve policymakers last month were conflicted over whether to expand or cut back a program intended to drive down mortgage rates and bolster the housing market, according to a document released Wednesday. Minutes of the Fed's closed-door meeting on Dec. 15-16 revealed that a "few members" thought that the Fed's \$1.25 trillion program to buy mortgage securities from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac might need to be expanded and extended beyond its current end date of March 31. Such an additional dose of stimulus would be especially needed if the economic recovery were to weaken, they argued. However, one member thought the program could be "scaled back" given the improvement in economic and financial conditions. The debate over the future of the program comes amid uncertainties about the vigor of the budding economic recovery. At the December meeting, Fed policymakers decided not

to make any changes to the program. At their September meeting, they opted to slow the pace of the purchases, wrapping them up by the end of March, rather than the end of 2009.

The minutes don't identify speakers by name but seeks to provide a more detailed account of the Fed's private discussions.

Some Fed officials remained concerned about the economy's ability to mount a self-sustaining recovery once government supports are removed.

To that end, those officials worried that improvements seen in the housing market might be "undercut" this year as the Fed's mortgage-buying program winds down, the government's home buyer tax credits expire at the end of April and home foreclosures grow.

Getting the housing market back on firm footing is a key ingredient to a lasting recovery. The collapse of the housing market, which dragged down home prices with it, was the catalyst for the longest and worst recession to hit the country since the 1930s.

"Generally the outlook was for gains in housing activity to continue. However, some participants still viewed the improved outlook as quite tentative and again pointed to potential sources of softness," the minutes said.

To nurture the recovery, the Fed at the December meeting kept its key bank lending rate at a record low near zero and pledged to hold it there for an "extended period." The goal: low interest rates will entice people and businesses to boost spending, which will fuel economic growth.

Economists said the Fed is all but certain to leave rates at record lows at its next meeting on Jan. 26-27 and probably for a good chunk of this year.

"Overall, there is nothing here to suggest that interest rates

will rise for quite some time," Paul Ashworth, economist at Capital Economics Ltd., said of the Fed minutes. Ashworth is among the economists predicting economic growth will slow in the second half of this year as President Obama's \$787 billion stimulus package of tax cuts and increased government spending fades. Most Fed officials don't currently see inflation as a problem because companies have "little ability to raise their prices" in the fragile economic environment. But they had mixed views about inflation risks.

Some noted that rising prices of oil and other commodities could boost inflation pressures down the road. Others thought investors' expectations of inflation could edge up because

of large federal government budget deficits and vast sums of money the Fed pumped into the economy to fight the financial crisis.

However, others predicted that the sluggish recovery and "slack" in the economy — meaning factories operating well below capacity and the weak labor market — would keep inflation under wraps.

At the December meeting, Fed staff gave several presentations on research into "inflation dynamics."

The biggest challenge facing Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues is to decide when to start boosting interest rates.

Moving too soon could short-circuit the recovery. Waiting too long could unleash inflation. □

## Stocks end flat following mixed economic reports

By TIM PARADIS  
and IEVA M. AUGSTUMS,  
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — Investors treaded water for a second day Wednesday as a batch of mixed economic reports and signs of division among Federal Reserve policymakers offered little insight into the economy.

Stocks ended little changed but modest gains pushed the Dow Jones industrial average and the Standard & Poor's 500 index to finish at new 15-month highs. The cautious tone seen Tuesday and Wednesday comes as investors await the government's monthly employment report Friday.

The day's economic news wasn't enough to galvanize traders still trying to determine which direction the market will take in the early part of 2010.

A sign of growth in the services industry gave some support to stocks. The Institute for Supply Management said its services index rose to 50.1 in December from 48.7 in

November. A reading above 50 signals growth.

The welcome news about service companies was offset by a report that employers cut 84,000 private sector jobs last month. The ADP National Employment Report came in worse than the forecasts of analysts polled by Thomson Reuters.

The latest batch of reports are similar to what investors have seen months — figures that reveal modest improvements but remind them that the economy remains weak. The stock market has been rising for 10 months on signs that the economy is recovering but analysts say stronger signs of growth will be needed to feed its advance in 2010.

Minutes from the Fed's December meeting showed that a "few members" thought that the central bank's \$1.25 trillion program to buy mortgages could need to grow, rather than be phased out on March 31. The report did little to deepen investors' insight into the Fed's intentions for



**FILE -** In this Sept. 15, 2008 file photo, a Wall St. street sign is seen near the New York Stock Exchange in New York. Stock index futures pointed to a lower open on Wall Street Wednesday, Jan 6, 2009, as investors refrain from any major moves while they await a stream of economic data.

(AP Photo/Jin Lee)

interest rates. Treasury prices fell as the minutes underscored some traders' concerns about inflation. □

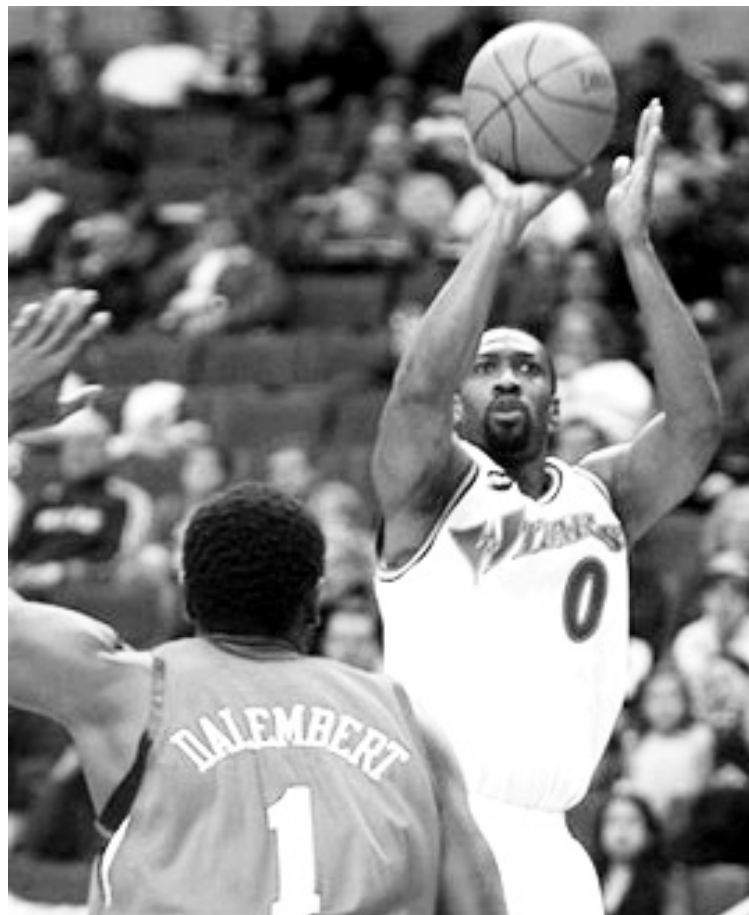


# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY



# Gilbert Arenas indefinitely suspended by NBA



## Federer, Nadal win to reach Qatar quarterfinals

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Top-ranked Roger Federer and No. 2 Rafael Nadal each won in straight sets Wednesday to reach the quarterfinals at the Qatar Open.

Federer beat Evgeny Korolev of Russia 6-2, 6-4 and Nadal defeated Potito Starace of Italy 6-2, 6-2.

Federer broke three times in the first set and once in the second. The Swiss star, who won the Qatar Open in 2005 and '06, will next play either Andreas Seppi of Italy or Ernests Gulbis of Latvia on Thursday.

"I know how he plays so I had the match under control," Federer said. "He plays a lot of balls on the forehand, so I was able to stay ahead in the match. There were long rallies in the second set, but I am pleased to have reached the quarterfinals."

It was Federer's 17th win in Doha, having lost only two matches in five appearances at the tournament.

Nadal improved to 6-0 against Starace, who has only a 2-16 record against top-10 opponents.

The Spaniard broke Starace twice in each set, returning well from the baseline and taking advantage of Starace twice hitting groundstrokes into the net. Nadal will next play Steve Darcis of Belgium, who beat Younes El Aynaoui of Morocco 6-3, 6-1.

"I am happy with my form," Nadal said. "This was confirmation that I am playing well. Right now, I am just concentrating on winning each game I play ... Now, I am only taking one match at a time. It wasn't a tough match."

Third-seeded Nikolay Davydenko topped Marco

**BRIAN MAHONEY**  
AP Basketball Writer  
NEW YORK (AP) — Washington Wizards guard Gilbert Arenas was suspended without pay by NBA commissioner David Stern on Wednesday for behavior that made him "not currently fit to take the court."

A day after Arenas was photographed before a game in Philadelphia pointing his index fingers, as if they were guns, at his teammates, Stern warned the three-time All-Star that his conduct will "ultimately result in a substantial suspension, and perhaps worse." Arenas is under investigation by federal and local authorities after admitting to bringing guns to the locker room.



World number one tennis player Roger Federer, from Switzerland, reacts after defeating Evgeny Korolev from Russia during the Qatar ATP Open Tennis tournament in Doha, Qatar, Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2010.

Associated Press

Chiudinelli of Switzerland 6-3, 6-4, while Victor Troicki of Serbia beat Olivier Rochus of Belgium 6-2, 6-2.

"I am surprised to have won the match in two sets," Davydenko said. "I practiced for only two weeks and then I fell sick. I was on medicine before coming here, so I am still struggling with my shots." □

Stern originally planned to wait to take action, but he tired of Arenas' behavior.

With each game he misses, Arenas will lose about \$147,200 of the \$16.2 million he will earn this season in the second of a six-year, \$111 million contract. The punishment came on his 28th birthday.

"I feel very badly that my actions have caused the NBA to suspend me, but I understand why the league took this action," Arenas said in a statement through his attorney. "I put the NBA in a negative light and let down my teammates and our fans. I am very sorry for doing that."

Arenas added that he had called Stern to apologize.

"While I never intended any harm or disrespect to the NBA or anyone else, my gun possession at the Verizon Center and my attempts at humor showed terrible judgment," he said. "I take full responsibility for my conduct."

Arenas originally said he brought four guns to the Verizon Center because he wanted them out of his house after his daughter was born. But two officials within the league who have been briefed on the investigation have told The Associated Press that the incident stemmed from a dispute over card-playing gambling debts and a heated discussion in the locker room with teammate Javaris Crittenton. The New York Post, however, reported that the two teammates drew weapons on each other.

Arenas said in a statement on Monday that he took unloaded guns from his locker in a "misguided

effort to play a joke" on a teammate.

"Joke or not, I now recognize that what I did was a mistake and was wrong," Arenas said. "I should not have brought the guns to DC in the first place, and I now realize that there's no such thing as joking around when it comes to guns — even if unloaded."

Stern said members of the Wizards organization are still being interviewed by law enforcement authorities.

"Some are scheduled for appearance before the grand jury and the investigation is proceeding with the intensity that one would expect for such a serious incident," Stern said.

A Wizards spokesman said Arenas left the team, which is playing in Cleveland, earlier Wednesday but didn't know where he was going.

"It's sad," Wizards guard DeShawn Stevenson said. "You don't want to see a player go down like that. We're a family, and it hurts." The Wizards supported Stern's decision in a statement attributed to president Ernie Grunfeld and the Pollin family, which owns the team. The late Abe Pollin changed the team's name from the Bullets because of the violent connotation.

"Strictly legal issues aside, Gilbert's recent behavior and statements, including his actions and statements last night in Philadelphia, are unacceptable," the statement said. "Some of our other players appeared to find Gilbert's behavior in Philadelphia amusing. This is also unacceptable." □



# Andre Dawson elected to MLB Hall of Fame

RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Andre Dawson was elected to Major League Baseball's Hall of Fame in his ninth try, while Bert Blyleven and Roberto Alomar fell just short of the honor on Wednesday.

Dawson received 420 of 539 votes in voting announced by the Baseball Writers' Association of America, 15 more than the 75 percent necessary to gain election. The eight-time All-Star outfielder had fallen 44 votes short last year.

"It was well worth the wait. I can't really describe the elation," Dawson said during a telephone conference call. "If you're a Hall of Famer, eventually you're going to get in, no matter how long it takes."

Blyleven had 400 votes (74.2 percent), up from 338 last year, and the pitcher will likely get in because he has two more tries on the BBWAA ballot. The highest percentage for a

player who wasn't elected in a later year was 63.4 by Gil Hodges in 1983, his final time on the ballot.

Alomar received 397 votes (73.7 percent) in the second baseman's first appearance and was followed by pitcher Jack Morris with 282 (52.3 percent), a big rise from his 237 last year.

"I feel disappointed, but next year hopefully I make it in," Alomar said at his home in New York. "At least I was close."

Cincinnati shortstop Barry Larkin, also making his first appearance, was on 278 ballots (51.6 percent), followed by reliever Lee Smith at 255 (47.3 percent) and slugger Edgar Martinez at 195 (36.2 percent). Martinez, on the ballot for the first time, is viewed as an early test of how voters will receive players who were primarily designated hitters.

Mark McGwire received 128 votes (23.7 percent), 10 more than last year and matching the total from his first two

times on the ballot. Eighth on the career list with 583 home runs, he has been stigmatized since evading questions from Congress in 2005 about steroids use.

McGwire was hired in October as St. Louis Cardinals hitting coach and is expected to hold an introductory news conference at some point.

Dawson will be inducted on July 25 at Cooperstown along with manager Whitey Herzog and umpire Doug Harvey, elected last month by the Veterans Committee.

Dawson hit 438 homers in a career from 1976-96. Nicknamed "The Hawk," he was voted National League Rookie of the Year in 1977 with Montreal and NL Most Valuable Player in 1987 with the Chicago Cubs, the first member of a last-place team to earn the honor.

A victim of owners' conspiracy against free agents after he left Montreal, Dawson signed a blank contract with the Cubs during spring training. Then-

martinez.com



general manager Dallas Green filled in the dollar amount of \$500,000, making Dawson the second-lowest paid regular on the team.

Dawson stayed with the Cubs through 1992, then spent two seasons apiece with Boston and Florida. He had a .279 career average with 1,591 RBIs and 314 steals, playing through 12 knee operations.

He is one of only three players with at least 400 home runs and 300 stolen bases, joining Barry Bonds and Willie Mays.

Next year's ballot also will include newcomers Rafael Palmeiro, Juan Gonzalez, Larry Walker, Jeff Bagwell, John Franco and Kevin Brown. □



This is a Nov. 7, 2009, file photo showing jockey Mike Smith riding Zenyatta during the Breeders' Cup Classic horse race at Santa Anita Park, in Arcadia, Calif. It's a match race for Horse of the Year between Rachel Alexandra and Zenyatta. The star females were the only horses receiving votes for Horse of the Year. The winner will be announced Jan. 18.

Associated Press

By The Associated Press

It's a match race between Rachel Alexandra and Zenyatta for Horse of the Year.

The star females were the only horses receiving votes for Horse of the Year, while there are three finalists in each of the other 16 Eclipse Award categories announced Wednesday.

The winners will be chosen Jan. 18 in Beverly Hills,

Calif.

Rachel Alexandra and Zenyatta are virtual certainties to win divisional championships.

Rachel Alexandra is a finalist for top 3-year-old filly after going 8-0 with a Preakness Stakes win, one of three victories over boys. The 5-year-old Zenyatta is a finalist for best older female after a 5-0 campaign capped by a win over boys in the

## Eclipse finalists: Two females vie for Horse of Year

Breeders' Cup Classic. Kentucky Derby winner Mine That Bird, Belmont Stakes winner Summer Bird and Florida Derby winner Quality Road are the 3-year-old male finalists.

Gio Ponti and Kodiak Kowboy are finalists in two divisions. Both are up for an Eclipse as top older male, with Gio Ponti also a finalist for best male turf horse, and Kodiak Kowboy also a finalist for best male sprinter.

Ventura also is a finalist in two categories — female sprinter and female turf horse.


The top three finishers in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile — Vale of York, Lookin at Lucky and Noble's Promise — are finalists for champion 2-year-old colt or gelding.

Zenyatta owners Jerry and Ann Moss and trainer John Shirreffs are finalists in


their respective categories. The other trainers up for the Eclipse are Steve Asmussen (Rachel Alexandra) and Bob Baffert (Lookin at Lucky). Godolphin Racing and Juddmonte Farms are the other finalist owners. The jockey finalists are

Ramon Dominguez, Garrett Gomez and Julien Leparoux.

Voting is done by the National Thoroughbred Racing Association, the National Turf Writers Association and the Daily Racing Form. □



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ALWAYS ... ON TOP OF THE NEWS!





LOS ANGELES (AP) — Andrew Bynum scored 11 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter as the Los Angeles Lakers fought back to beat the Houston Rockets 88-79 on Tuesday, notching their fourth consecutive NBA victory. Kobe Bryant added 22 points, but had just three field goals in the second half when he picked up four fouls. The Lakers maintained a 4-1/2 game lead in the Western Conference and a two-game lead over Boston and Cleveland for the league's best record. Carl Landry led the Rockets with 19 points. Grizzlies 109, Trail Blazers

105

In Portland, Oregon, Memphis closed with a 13-1 run over the final four minutes to beat Portland.

O.J. Mayo scored 27 points, hitting 10 of 18 shots including four 3-pointers, as Memphis moved above .500 for the first time this season. Zach Randolph also scored 27 points and had a game-high 14 rebounds for the Grizzlies, who have won four consecutive games.

Brandon Roy hit 9 of 18 shots and scored 27 points to lead Portland.

#### Suns 113, Kings 109

In Sacramento, California, Phoenix snapped a seven-game road losing skid with a

## NBA Roundup

# Lakers fights back to beat Rockets 88-79

tight win over Sacramento. Steve Nash had 30 points and 12 assists, and Amare Stoudemire scored 24 for the Suns.

The Kings erased an entire 20-point first half deficit but could never take the lead, falling for the 14th time in the past 16 meetings between the teams.

Tyreke Evans led Sacramento with 27 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists.

#### Pacers 97, Magic 90

In Indianapolis, Roy Hibbert scored a career-high 26 points, leading Indiana over Orlando.

Hibbert, a 2.13-meter (7-2) center, added eight rebounds and four blocks. Luther Head had 18 points for the Pacers. Mickael Pietrus and Jameer Nelson each scored 16 for the Magic, who still lead the Southeast Division despite consecutive losses.

#### Mavericks 98, Pistons 93

In Dallas, the hosts overcame a slow start to hand Detroit its 10th consecutive loss.

Jason Terry scored 26 points and Dirk Nowitzki added 22 for the Mavericks, who recovered after shooting just

29 percent in the first quarter and trailing by 14 points during the first half.

The Pistons hadn't dropped 10 in a row since the end of the 1993-94 season. They lost their final 13 games that season.

Richard Hamilton led Detroit with 20 points.

Nuggets 123, Warriors 122

In Denver, J.R. Smith hit two free throws with 0.4 seconds remaining to lift Denver over Golden State.

Smith, one of four Nuggets to finish with at least 20 points, was fouled by Monta Ellis while throwing up a desperation 3-pointer after taking an inbounds pass with just 3 seconds remaining.

Ellis had given Golden State a 122-121 lead when he made a 10-foot turnaround jumper with 15 seconds to play.

Corey Maggette scored a season-high 35 points to lead the Warriors, who lost their eighth straight on the road.

#### Bobcats 113, Bulls 108

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Charlotte held off a fast-finishing Chicago to notch a third straight victory.

Gerald Wallace scored 32

points, and Stephen Jackson and Flip Murray added 25 each for the Bobcats, in a fast-paced game that saw both teams shoot 51 percent. Derrick Rose and John Salmons missed potential game-tying 3-point attempts in the closing seconds for the Bulls, who gave up seventh place in the Eastern Conference to the Bobcats despite wiping out a 13-point second-quarter deficit.

Rose scored 10 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter.

#### Wizards 104, 76ers 97

In Philadelphia, Washington overcame an 18-point deficit to defeat Philadelphia.

Antawn Jamison tied his season-high with 32 points and had 14 rebounds, and Nick Young scored 21 points for the Wizards, who snapped a four-game losing streak.

Andre Iguodala scored 20 points to lead the Sixers.

#### Bucks 98, Nets 76

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Milwaukee got a rare road win with a comfortable victory over hapless New Jersey.

Andrew Bogut scored 14 of his 18 points in the second half, while Carlos Delfino — who had scored just 10 points in the Bucks' past five games — added 17.

Yi Jianlian had 22 points to lead the Nets, who lost for the 31st time in 34 games this season.

In other NBA games it was, Indiana 97, Orlando 90; Charlotte 113, Chicago 108; Washington 104, Philadelphia 97; Milwaukee 98, New Jersey 76; Dallas 98, Detroit 93; Denver 123, Golden State 122; Phoenix 113, Sacramento 109; Memphis 109, Portland 105; and L.A. Lakers 88, Houston 79. □

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# Vikings WR/KR Harvin is AP top offensive rookie

**BARRY WILNER**

**AP Football Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — Minnesota Vikings wide receiver/kick returner Percy Harvin used his versatility and intelligence to win The Associated Press 2009 NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year award on Wednesday. Harvin easily earned the votes the same way he outran defenses and special teams this season. He received 41 votes from the panel of 50 U.S. sports writers and broadcasters who cover the league. Baltimore tackle Michael Oher, subject of the hit movie “The Blind Side,” was second with six votes.

The 22nd overall draft pick out of the University of Florida, Harvin had 60 receptions for 790 yards and six touchdowns; rushed 15 times for 135 yards;

and returned 42 kickoffs for 1,156 yards (27.5 average) and two touchdowns, one covering 101 yards.

He tied with Indianapolis’ Austin Collie for most catches by a rookie and set Minnesota’s single-season record for all-purpose yardage with 2,081.

“I call him Little Phenom,” said teammate Adrian Peterson, the 2007 Offensive Rookie of the Year. “He’s got the heart of a lion when he’s out there playing.”

He’s also got the confidence of his entire team, including a 40-year-old quarterback who demands excellence.

“I think Percy’s on his way to a league of his own,” Brett Favre said.

“He’s quick like (New England’s) Wes Welker. He’s got a long ways to go to be in the same category with Wes,

but at the rate he’s going he’s a dominant force in a lot of ways.”

Precisely the reason Harvin dominated the voting and was added to the Pro Bowl this week.

He missed one game in December with migraine headaches, about the only thing that slowed him.

“I came in with ‘I’m ready for anything, I’m expecting anything,’ so nothing surprised me. I’m pretty good on that end,” Harvin said.

He helped Minnesota win the NFC North division and earn a first-round playoff bye.

Harvin is the sixth Vikings player to win the award, joining Peterson, Randy Moss (1998), Sammy White (1976), Chuck Foreman (1973) and Paul Flatley (1963).

Also receiving votes this



This Dec. 6, 2009, file photo shows Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Percy Harvin running against the Arizona Cardinals during the first half of an NFL football game in Glendale, Ariz. Percy Harvin used his versatility and intelligence to win The Associated Press 2009 NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year award for 2009.

*Associated Press*

season were Philadelphia Knowshon Moreno and receiver Jeremy Maclin, Pittsburgh receiver Mike Denver running back Wallace, each with one. □



Vancouver Canucks’ Alex Burrows, right, and Ryan Kesler celebrate after Burrows scored his third goal of the NHL hockey game against the Columbus Blue Jackets, during third period Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2010, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

*Associated Press*

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP) — Veteran goalie Martin Brodeur made 28 saves for his third shutout in just seven games, helping the NHL Eastern Conference-leading New Jersey Devils to a 4-0 win over the Dallas Stars on Tuesday.

Brodeur extended his league record by posting career shutout No. 106. He has five this season.

Patrik Elias scored twice, and Travis Zajac and Zach Parise added goals for New Jersey. Dallas has won only one of its past nine away from home.

**Flames 3, Predators 1**

In Nashville, Tennessee, Calgary moved to the top of the Northwest Division standings with a win over Nashville.

David Moss and Olli Jokinen

each scored in the second period as the Flames won a fifth straight game, and fourth in a row at Nashville.

Daymond Langkow added an empty-netter for his 11th goal of the season.

The Predators’ three-game winning streak was snapped, with their sole goal from Patric Hornqvist in the third.

**Blackhawks 4, Wild 1**

In Chicago, the hosts claimed the overall NHL points lead by sinking Minnesota.

Marian Hossa scored two goals for the second straight game as the surging Blackhawks won their fourth straight, moving ahead of New Jersey and San Jose on points.

Chicago improved its home record to a league-best 20-4-1.

## NHL Roundup

# Devils shut out Stars

Patrick Kane extended his scoring streak to nine games with a power-play goal early in the third, and John Madden also netted for the Blackhawks.

Minnesota’s Guillaume Latendresse opened the scoring.

In Washington, Alex Ovechkin’s debut as Washington captain was a success even though he was kept off the score sheet against Montreal.

Tomas Fleischmann had a goal and two assists after moving from left wing to center, and Alexander Semin scored twice as Washington snapped a season-high three-game skid.

Before the game, Washington introduced Ovechkin as the team’s 14th captain. He was held without a point for only the eighth time this season.

Eric Fehr scored the Capitals’ go-ahead goal in the second period.

The Canadiens goals came from Josh Gorges and Benoit Pouliot.

In Ottawa, Boston scored four times in the first period to quickly end the contest against Ottawa.

Blake Wheeler had two goals and an assist, and David Krejci and Mark Recchi both had a goal and an assist.

Bruins goalie Tim Thomas stopped 28 shots as he extended his winning streak against the Senators to 11 games.

Filip Kuba scored in the second period for Ottawa.

In Pittsburgh, the hosts halted a season-worst five-game losing streak by beating slumping Atlanta.

Jordan Staal scored twice, Ruslan Fedotenko ended Pittsburgh’s 0-13 run on power plays with a second-period goal, and Kris Letang also netted for the Penguins.

Atlanta’s Jim Slater scored his second and third goals of the season about 13 minutes apart in the second period, but the Thrashers lost for the ninth straight game — their worst run since 2002-03.

In Edmonton, Alberta, Shane Doan scored his second goal of the game early in overtime to lift Phoenix over Edmonton.

The Oilers scored two goals 49 seconds apart before the midpoint of the third, tying it 4-4.

Radim Vrbata, Martin Hanzal

and Petr Prucha also scored for the Coyotes, who snapped their five-game road losing streak to the Oilers.

Gilbert Brule, Patrick O’Sullivan, Denis Grebeshkov and Dustin Penner had goals for the Oilers, but they lost their third straight.

In Vancouver, British Columbia, Alex Burrows’ hat trick helped surging Vancouver rout slumping Columbus.

The left winger’s first two goals helped spark a Canucks’ comeback from a 2-0 deficit in the first period. He completed his second NHL hat trick in the third.

Henrik Sedin scored his 20th goal and added two assists to move into a first-place tie for the NHL scoring lead with San Jose’s Joe Thornton on 58 points.

**In other NHL games it was, Washington 4, Montreal 2; New Jersey 4, Dallas 0; Toronto 3, Florida 2; Boston 4, Ottawa 1; Pittsburgh 5, Atlanta 2; Chicago 4, Minnesota 1; Calgary 3, Nashville 1; Phoenix 5, Edmonton 4, OT; Anaheim 4, Detroit 1; Vancouver 7, Columbus 3. □**



# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY

### Tom Brady wins AP Comeback Player award



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) looks for a receiver as Jacksonville Jaguars defensive end Quentin Groves (54) closes in during the first half of an NFL football game in Foxborough, Mass., Sunday, Dec. 27, 2009.

Associated Press

BARRY WILNER

AP Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Tom Brady's strong return from a left knee injury that sidelined him for virtually all of the 2008 season earned the New England Patriots quarterback The Associated Press 2009 NFL Comeback Player of the Year on Wednesday.

One of the NFL's biggest stars, Brady has gone from league's Most Valuable Player in 2007, when he set several passing records, to sidelined to earning his second league award. "I played 15 straight years without ever missing a game, high school or college or professional, so every time you walk off the field you feel very blessed," Brady said. "I think it was a great lesson, life experience, not only football experience, that I was able to have."

Brady received 19 votes from a panel of 50 U.S. sports writers and broadcasters who cover the NFL, beating Tampa Bay running back Carnell "Cadillac" Williams, who got 14.

A three-time Super Bowl winner and a finalist for AP Player of the Decade, Brady led New England to a 10-6 record and the AFC East division title this season. He threw for 4,398 yards and 28 touchdowns.

Most significantly, he got the Patriots back into

the playoffs.

"I think I love playing and I love being out there with my teammates and, practicing today," he said. "It's the greatest reward for any of this, for any of us, is to be a part of a team that's successful, because we all have a lot of good fortune to be playing."

Coach Bill Belichick praised what Brady means to his team.

"Well deserved," Belichick said of the honor. "He's had a tremendous year. Tom just brings so much to this team and our organization on and off the field: His preparation, his leadership, his performance, his unselfishness. All the things that he gives us are just top shelf, whether he did or didn't play last year."

Brady is the second Patriot to win the award; linebacker Tedy Bruschi shared it with Carolina receiver Steve Smith in 2005. He is the fifth quarterback honored since the award began in 1998, including Chad Pennington, who won in 2006 and 2008.

Also receiving votes were Tennessee quarterback Vince Young, Minnesota quarterback Brett Favre, Cincinnati running back Cedric Benson and his teammate, quarterback Carson Palmer, and New Orleans defensive end Anthony Hargrove. □

### Iowa downs Georgia Tech in Orange Bowl

TIM REYNOLDS

AP Sports Writer

MIAMI (AP) — Iowa claimed the Orange Bowl title with a 24-14 win over a misfiring Georgia Tech in college football Tuesday.

An abysmal first half and a bad decision by quarterback Josh Nesbitt midway through the final quarter cost Georgia Tech in a game that was statistically dominated by the Hawkeyes.

Georgia Tech came into the game with the nation's No. 2 rushing offense, averaging 307 yards per game and with 46 touchdowns. But the Yellow Jackets finished with just 143 yards on 41 carries, their second-lowest total of the season.

Before halftime, Georgia Tech was forced to punt six times — tying their season worst for a game — as well as being outgained 257 yards to

32 and failing to gain a single first down on their first three possessions.

Despite all the mistakes, the Yellow Jackets still had two late possessions, with a chance to tie the game or take the lead. The first came with 8-1/2 minutes left, when Nesbitt's pass from his own goal line was intercepted by A.J. Edds, but the Yellow Jackets escaped when Iowa's fake field goal didn't work,



giving Georgia Tech the ball back at the 12, still down by only three points.

One the ensuing drive, running back Jonathan Dwyer lost 11 yards, backing Georgia Tech to its 1-yard line, and the Yellow Jackets had to punt again.

That set up the final blow, Brandon Wegher's 32-yard clinching touchdown run for Iowa with 1:56 left.

The defeat meant Atlantic Coast Conference teams are 1-9 in their past 10 bowl games. □



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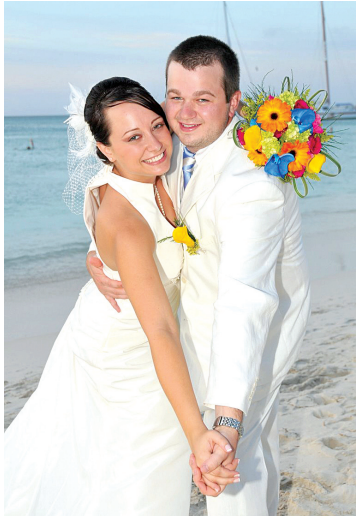


On Top Of The News

Email: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com)

Thursday, January 7, 2010

## At Occidental Grand Jessica & Noah celebrate their love at Sunset



OCCIDENTAL – Recently, Jessica & Noah Rains were married on the beach at the Occidental Grand this week and are celebrating their honeymoon on the island of Aruba.

Page B8

## Fourteen teams rearing to go at the Plaza Quiz Night Series



ORANJESTAD - Fourteen teams, 60 participants, were rearing to tease their brains on the first of the 8-week Plaza Quiz Night Series.

Page B9

# Valero to Sell Aruba Refinery to PetroChina



Valero Energy has confirmed reports that it is in talks to sell a refinery in Aruba. According to Aruba's Prime Minister, the potential buyer is PetroChina.

The refinery in question produces 235,000 barrels of crude oil per day, and accounts for a third of Aruba's gross domestic product.

Valero has been looking to sell it for more than a year, and shut down production at the facility in July. A selling price has not been disclosed. □

## Chef Matt Boland spicing things up at The Westin Resort

PALM BEACH – A veteran renowned for his talent for creating intriguing and successful menu concepts is now at the helm of the culinary team at The Westin Resort, Aruba. Matt Boland is the new executive chef, and has already dived into energizing and adding new flair to the menus of the resort's flagship restaurant, Pago Pago, as well as the Italian- and Mediterranean-influenced Baci.

Pago Pago, which was originally focused on Pan-Asian cuisine, went through numerous reinventions, most recently with an American steakhouse theme, when the property was part of the Wyndham brand.

Now under the Westin flag, the restaurants will undergo the same renewing and refreshing transformation that the guest rooms, lobby, and other public areas have undergone. Chef Matt,

who was part of the original creative team behind Pago Pago is anxious to bring the restaurant back to the top of the island's culinary ranks. The new menu will be a mélange of contemporary Caribbean and Asian cuisine. "Asian cooking is very hot right now, and it has proven to be more than just a trend—it is here to stay. I want to expand on that and meld it with all that is fresh, bold, and exciting in Caribbean cuisine...we have access to the freshest seafood caught right here, amazing tropical fruits, herbs, and spices that can be combined in symphony to yield a whole new level of cuisine in Pago Pago," explains the chef.

Chef Matt is thrilled with the culinary staff at the resort. "We have an Italian chef in Baci, and it will be great to work with him on adding more classic and



contemporary Italian dishes to the menu there," says Matt. In fact, Matt is looking forward to exploring the cuisine of many of the other nationalities working in the kitchen, and bringing them to life in one form or another in the restaurants at Westin.

Matt is also working on a program for the resort's Guest Enrichment program.

"I want to offer cooking classes for our guests...I think it would be fun to learn how to make Dutch pancakes, or a Colombian arepa, or one of our local dishes like keshi yena." Stay tuned for the unveiling of the new menu at Pago Pago, as well as many other exciting culinary adventures to come at The Westin Resort, Aruba. □



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# FIVE QUESTIONS WITH ...ADAM STEINFELD, magician-comedian, star of the Magic Live!® theater-of-illusions show



BY REBECCA SWAIN VADNIE

What have you been working on recently?

We launched our new version of Magic Live!® theater-of-illusions show at the Westin-aruba a few weeks ago, we turned a theater that's been closed for 2 years into a fun & exciting show within 10 days, now that's Magic!...the Magic Live!® show has been well received by tourists and magic leaders alike, every seat is clear sight-line to the stage, it only holds 125 seats, one of the reasons we're open everyday, the demand, has been very encouraging. I slice the beautiful girl-in-half, float her to the top of the theater, and then later in the show, float an audience in-the-air, the magic-comedy-illusion show will change every few weeks, I brought with me tons of new never-before-

seen illusions, so every live onstage performance is unique and different, expect lots of surprises.

When did you first realize you wanted to be a magician?

In elementary school, in 2nd grade, I fooled my teacher Mrs. Hooligan, in much frustration and consternation on her part, I performed a show & tell effect; using a bell that rang at any time, only I the magician could make it ring, she tried and tired, but couldn't make it work. I also performed magic & ventriloquism at birthday parties as a youngster, I always considered it a hobby, that is until I won first place in the florida state magic convention contest. at age ten, quite an accomplishment for a kid-magician at the time, later on, studying to be a film-maker at the University of Miami, I put myself through college,

performing magic shows at events and comedy clubs, and cruiseships around the world, from Barcelona to San Juan.... if you turn your passion into your living, you can never go wrong.

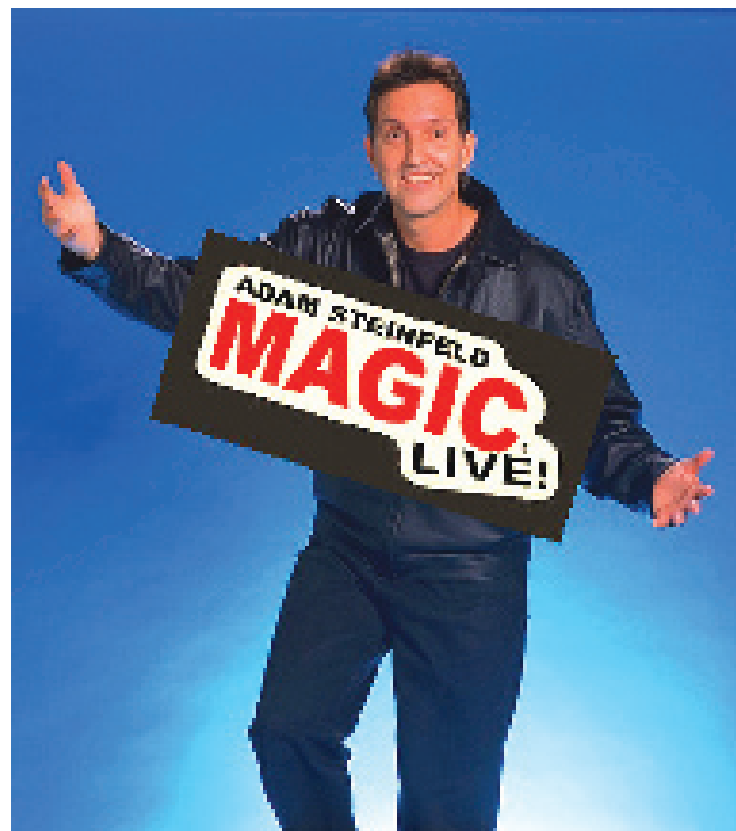
How is your show different than say; David Copperfield, Lance Burton or Amazing Jonathan?

I present "magic" mixed with nonstop laughter, and world-class stage illusions, I don't take myself so seriously on stage, and I don't have a set script, most is improvised, lets just say controlled chaos, involving interactive audience fun...plus the Magic Live!® upscale theater at the Westin only seats 125, every seat is perfect sightlines to the stage, it's more of an private personal show, than watching it from a far in a large auditorium stage, than a typical magic show.

What is your greatest career achievement?

On April 1st, in 1988 (April Fools Day), I set a guinness world record, in magic, by performing 102 magic tricks in a little more than 3 minutes, it was filmed for network television, and aired in 52 countries around the world including the australian TV show, Just for the Record, and aired as a major news story throughout the USA, it earned me the title of; the World's Most Versatile Magician, the event was sponsored by Timex, and after that bookings started to pour in.

What is this I hear about your new conspiracy novel; Houdini Lives! ? I spent two years collaborating over the internet with New England mystery writer, Al Blanchard on my story; Houdini Lives!, the novel is now available online and at [www.HoudiniLives.com](http://www.HoudiniLives.com), it's historical fiction, set 40 years past Houdini's death in 1926, the world's greatest magician, Houdini is living as his fathers profession in miami beach, in 1966, and he knows



other celebrities of that time period from Jackie Gleason to Sinatra to Larry King, I believe this story will one day be turned into a feature film.

How do you spend your time, when you're not performing? Aruba is without a doubt the most picturesque island of all

the caribbean, as a filmmaker, I like to spent my time shooting short stories, and interviews of the people of aruba, who are always fascinating, you can see a few shorts on [www.Aruba123.com](http://www.Aruba123.com), one is a short documentary titled; Aruba, almost heaven. I plan to shoot more in the future. □



## IF YOU GO

What: Magic Live!® theater-of-illusions show  
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# Caribbean tax haven set to offer further incentives for wealthy investors and funds

**Written by Ray Clancy**

The government of the Cayman Islands has promised to sort out strict immigration rules that are putting off investment funds from basing themselves on the Caribbean paradise.

The British overseas territory, a group of beach-lined islands south of Cuba, is legal home to most of the world's hedge funds, but has seen a huge drop in the number of companies located there, industry experts say.

Some say it has been due to the global credit crunch but now it is emerging that inflexibility over immigration is also to blame.

Roger Hanson, former regional manager for Fortis Prime Fund Solutions, has admitted that it was immigration issues that played a significant part in the firm's downsizing on the island. He said the company moved part of its operations to Curacao and downsized its staff after failing to obtain the immigration flexibility it needed.

After Hurricane Ivan in September 2004 the company wanted to spread its risk and asked for two-to-three year permits for staff, he explained. 'But we were not given them. So we said, fine. We can't continue to build back our infrastructure and not have any certainty after making all that investment,' Hanson added.

In the last year or so Goldman Sachs, HSBC, Citi, Rothschild Trust, Fortis, Butterfield Fulcrum Group, Caledonian Fund Services, Maples & Calder have moved part or all of their operations to other jurisdictions such as Canada, Ireland, UK, US, Bermuda and Curacao.

While few have admitted

openly to immigration limitations being the reason, in reality it appears to have played a significant part.

Now Caymans Prime Minister McKeeva Bush and other local policy makers want to prevent any exodus of companies in the strategic financial industry that accounts for more than half of the national economy, by offering more attractive, flexible immigration regulations in the islands.

But at the same time it is also

proposing to increase the cost of permits of work permits by up to 200%.

'As a jurisdiction, we cannot run the risk of making it too difficult to do business or increase costs. Once these companies have gone, they will never come back,' said John Lewis of the local Fund Administrators Association.

The islands are looking to attract fund managers, brokers, and deal-makers that have a lot

to say on where capital goes on creating funds, according to Sherri Bodden-Cowan, the head of the Immigration Review Team.

On the table are fast-tracked three to five year work permits and assurances that senior positions in investing companies will get immigration status that bypasses the seven-year time limit on foreigners working in the islands. There is also draft legislation giving wealthy individuals the right to

live and work in the Caymans for 25 years if they make a business investment of \$2.6 million.

There is a lot at stake. The financial services sector accounts for about 55% of the Cayman economy, according to an Oxford Economics report. It also brings in 40% of government revenue, income the country can ill afford to lose as it comes under increasing pressure from Britain to rely less on its tax haven image. □

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*In connection with the violation of Venezuelan airspace from Aruba and Curacao*

# US denies its warplanes violated Venezuelan airspace



ORANJESTAD — The US Southern Command denied Monday that US military aircraft based in the Caribbean had violated Venezuelan airspace as charged by Caracas. “The basic bottom line is that there’s no substance to those allegations,” command

spokesman Stephen Lucas told AFP. The Miami, Florida-based command is responsible for all US military operations in the region. “The access agreements we’ve negotiated with the governments of Netherlands and Netherlands West

Antilles allow us to fly counter-drug missions out of Curaçao and Aruba. We do that in cooperation with many nations in the area,” he added. Lucas said the most recent “accidental incursion” of US a warplane into Venezuela airspace occurred in May

1988. The plane flew out of Curacao, he added. On Friday, the Netherlands also rejected accusations that the United States was using the islands to mount military operations against Venezuela, calling the allegations “unfair, baseless and fantastical.”

“allows us to conclude that the warmongering US government, in league with the government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, is preparing an aggression against the territory and people of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.” Leftist Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has stepped up his anti-US rhetoric since Colombia agreed in October to give the United States access to some of its air bases for anti-drug trafficking operations. Chavez believes the agreement masks US intentions to attack his country. □



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## Ele Chesney recognized by Aruban Government



her recent recognition by the government of Aruba and expressed her love for the island and the people.

The ceremony was orchestrated by Mandy Lopez of the Aruba Tourism Authority in the presence of Mrs. Moraima Giel of the Aruba Beach Club.

Alfredo Doornkamp strated his art career here in Aruba in 2006. Mrs. Chesney was presented with a portrait of herself by her Aruban Art Professor Alfredo who has done many portrait paintings during last year.

He's specialized in reality paintings and in 2007 he started teaching art and



currently is giving art lessons to kids & adults.

Alfredo does all kinds of art works, from portrait paintings up to even sculptures. After many years working together

with different other people, Alfredo opened his own art school in August 2009. On November 28th, 2009 was the first expo he had with his students. □



ORANJESTAD - Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority had the pleasure to honor Mrs. Ele Chesney as an Ambassador of Goodwill for the island of Aruba. She has made great contributions to the island by participating with Car Shows, a member of the Women's Club of Aruba and helping the Lion's Club of Arubba with fundraising. She was very excited for





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## \*\*\*HUMAN HINTS\*\*\*

### Judgment

There is a lot of talk in the Enlightenment Movement about not placing judgment. These are good intentions, but to say Don't Judge is only half of the equation, and overlooks the fact that Humans relate to the world through judgment.

Here's the paradox. We shouldn't place judgment, but judgment is how we relate to the physical world. We must place everything we come across into categories that our past experiences have created. We can't put something into a category unless we judge it in some way. Without judgment, we don't know how to relate. Our judgment tells us where to put something within the structure of our experience. Even if we are not emotionally attached,

we must judge something in order to know what it means to us.

Becoming aware of our instant unconscious interpretation of all things is the right idea, and we can further hone our focus to say that jumping to conclusions doesn't serve our enlightenment. In other words, jump to the fourth dimension instead of jumping to conclusions.

We must judge everything, we have no choice. We don't, however, have to jump to conclusions. See what you see, put it into its proper category, and let it be whatever it is to you. Your judgment defines you, it is not a bad thing. If you don't like the way you judge others, change the way you

see them. Change your judgment by changing your perspective. See people for who they are, not for who you think they are or who you want them to be. Allow and don't try to control.

Remember that we each see our own personal interpretation of the Physical Realm. Since we all have different pasts and different hormones, we all interpret everything differently. There are an infinite number of interpretations for a single physical situation. Any conclusion that you reach about what you see must fit into your personal framework of experience, which is different for everyone.

Judging without jumping to conclusions gives your life

structure, while leaving you open to infinite possibilities. Don't dictate to the physical and the physical won't dictate to you. Always be open to infinite possibilities, and allow.

When we see a situation, making up stories feeds our natural fantasies, and can be healthy. Remember that they are stories that you made up. Don't impose your made up stories onto someone else's life, and don't impose your personal interpretation of life onto someone else's. Let people be who they are.

Until Tomorrow...

Go to [www.HumanHints.com](http://www.HumanHints.com) to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

### ~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought.

HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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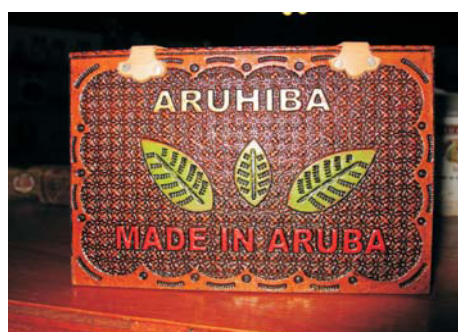
ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba.



Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with



five cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open on Sunday from 9am to 8pm. And also at Tamarijn Hotel open from 9am to 1pm. Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores. Visit our authentic tobacco farm where cigars are handmade.

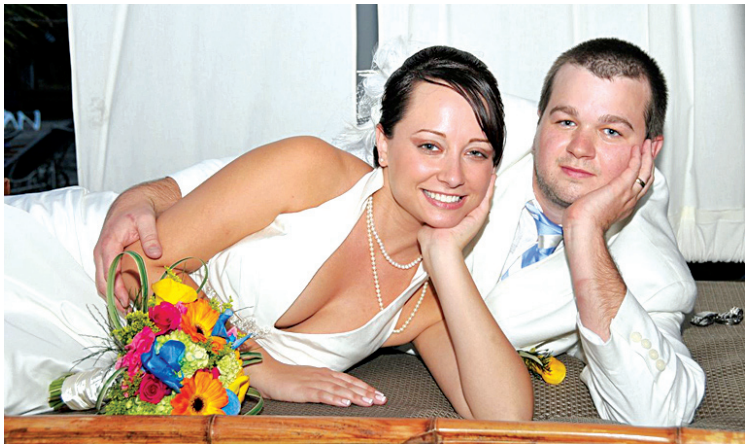


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At Occidental Grand

# Jessica & Noah celebrate their love at Sunset



OCCIDENTAL – Recently, Jessica & Noah Rains were married on the beach at the Occidental Grand this week and are celebrating their honeymoon on the island of Aruba.

The ceremony was officiated by Reverend Robert Gibson followed by a romantic dinner on the beach.

The lovebirds love Aruba and plan to return over and over again.

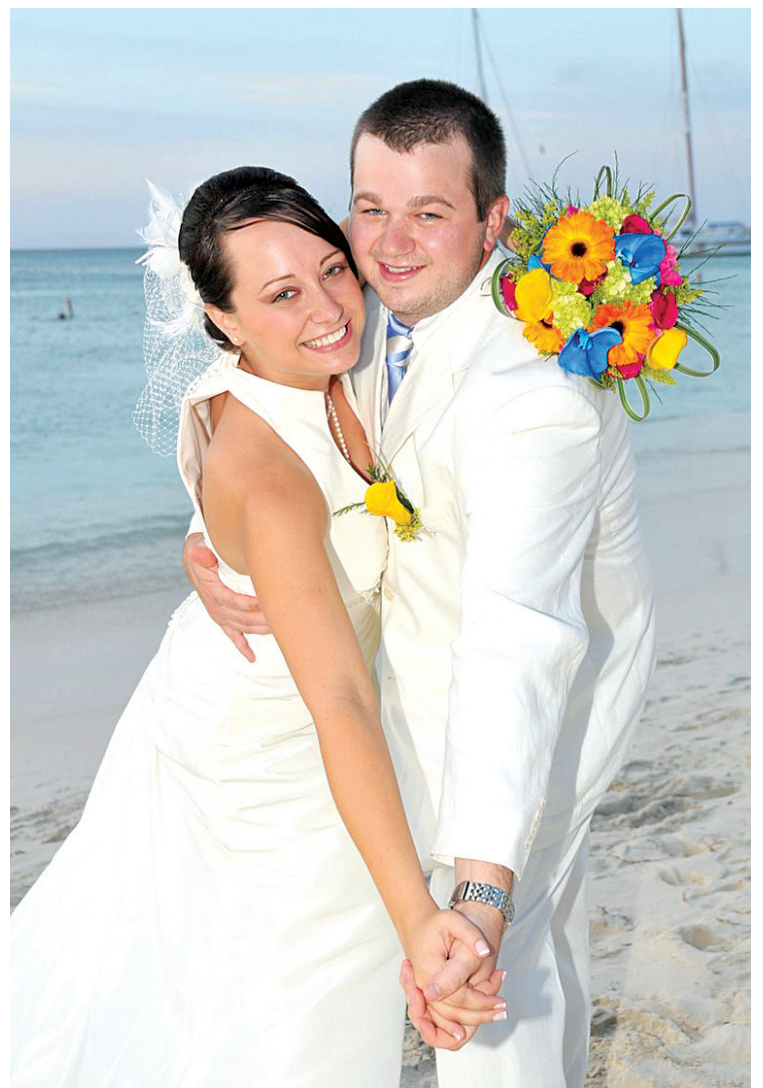
Jessica & Noah chose Aruba because it was out of the Hurricane belt and they knew a few people who have visited and raved about the island.

The photo shoot took place at the Occidental Grand Resort alongside the Caribbean ocean.

Wedding Coordinator Kimberly Dammerman orchestrated the enchanted evening to the last detail of perfection and photography by Bella Aruba Photography.

Congratulations from Occidental Grand and Aruba Today!!!

~ Photos by Julia Renfro





# Fourteen teams rearing to go at the Plaza Quiz Night Series



ORANJESTAD - Fourteen teams, 60 participants, were rearing to tease their brains on the first of the 8-week Plaza Quiz Night Series. Held on Tuesday evenings, this popular quiz night is a hit with various teams in close pursuit of glory. Last Tuesday was no different: teams like Bier Hier, The Corner Girls, Eureka and Kamikaze were doing battle for the top position, which ultimately went to team Eureka with 49,5 points. Kamikaze was second and The Corner Girls third. The winners went home with two great bottles of wine. Newcomers at Café the Plaza were teams Minute Man, The Schoonzussen featuring Jodi Tobman and The Four Stooges; they did pretty

well for first-timers, answering questions like: What is 66.2 degrees Fahrenheit in Celcius? What is the second largest bird in height, and which television show features characters called Pacey, Joey, Jen and Audrey? Not everyone had these answers right (19 Celcius, the Emu and Dawson's Creek). The music round included songs by Phil Collins (Against All Odds), Mary Mary (Shackless) and The Shadows (Moonlight Shadow). If you wish to pitch your knowledge against the quizzers at The Plaza, just come to Café the Plaza in the Renaissance Marketplace on Tuesday evenings a little before 8 pm. The first question is fired off at exactly 8 o'clock! □



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PALM BEACH – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

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The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, home-made soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

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12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to [www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com).

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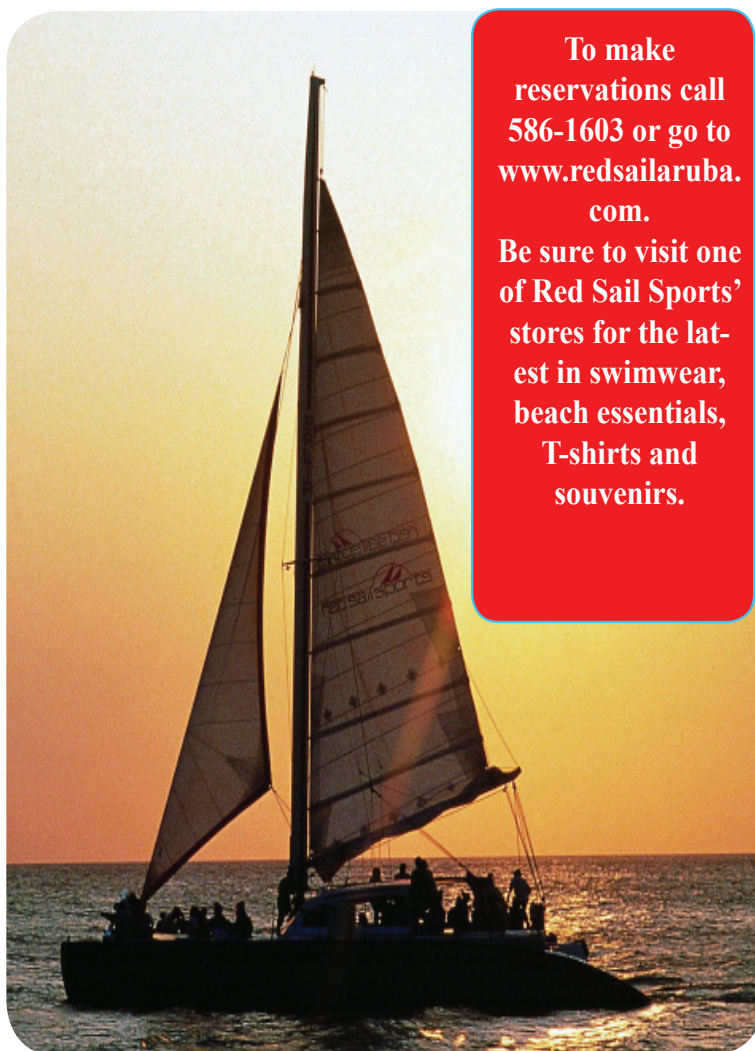
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## Three voting cards returned up to now

POND ISLAND--Only three of the 19,355 voting cards sent out to registered voters have been returned to the Civil Registry. Distribution of the voting cards began around December 15, according to Civil Registry head Leona Marlin.

The Post Office delivered the voting cards for the January 22 parliamentary elections to the addresses listed for the voters in the Civil Registry.

The addresses and other information on the three returned voting cards will be examined by the Civil Registry to see what prevented the delivery. "We will check to see if the address has been changed, or if the people are still in St. Maarten," Marlin said.

A cleanup of the voters' list was carried out after the 2007 Island Council elections under the supervision of Lt. Governor Franklyn Richards. The cleanup sought to correct addresses and ensure that all Dutch citizens registered here were actually still living here.

People must register any change of address within six weeks of moving, according to law, but many people do not and this results in official correspondences from the government, such as voting cards, to be delivered to their old addresses.

A total of 19,355 people are eligible to cast their votes in the January 22 elections for the last Parliament of the Netherlands Antilles before the country is dismantled and country St. Maarten, country Curaçao, and Dutch public entities Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba (the

BES islands) emerge on October 10, 2010.

Of the voters, 10,006 were born in the Netherlands Antilles, including the 5,841 born in St. Maarten. The other voters were born elsewhere in the Dutch Kingdom or were naturalised.

Should there be 100 per cent voter turnout on Election Day, 6,451 votes will be needed to capture one of the three parliamentary seats allotted to St. Maarten. If voter turnout is lower, the number of votes per seat will be determined by the number of votes cast divided by three.

Of the 18,035 eligible voters for the 2006 parliamentary elections, only 10,897 cast ballots, putting the seat allocation at 3,632 per seat. National Alliance captured two seats in that election and the Democratic Party took one.

The 16 polling stations for the elections are John Larmonie Centre (1,071 voters), Sundial School/House of Detention (1,353), St. Maarten Senior Citizens Recreation Foundation (1,071), Sister Marie Laurence Primary School (1,494), Dutch Quarter Community Centre (1,426), Milton Peters College (1,392), Rupert I. Maynard Youth Centre (1,090), St. Maarten Academy (956), Celebration Palace (1,264), Raoul Illidge Sports Complex (1,126), Charles Leopold Bell Primary School (1,387), Leonard Conner Primary School (1,285), Simpson Bay Sports Community Centre (959), Belvedere Community Centre (1,275), Melford Hazel Sport and Recreational Centre (783), and St. Maarten Home (1,423). □

## Alliance first public meeting on Thursday

DUTCH QUARTER--The National Alliance (NA) will hold its first public meeting tomorrow, Thursday, at the De Weever's property in Dutch Quarter. All eleven candidates will be on hand to address the public about why National Alliance candidates should be elected to serve in the last parliament of the Netherlands Antilles (NA).

Alliance, which currently holds two of the three parliamentary seats with its representatives Rodolphe Samuel and George Pantophlet, is hoping to

convince voters to endorse the party. Three parliamentary seats are up for grabs in the elections scheduled for January 22.

Party leader William Marlin had earlier stressed the importance of the upcoming election, saying it's just as important as any. He is encouraging voters to go to the polls and endorse the Alliance, which he said will be running a straightforward campaign. He is urging voters to keep NA in power, describing the party as one they can trust and

keep promises made.

NA's public meetings will continue in various districts in the run-up to elections. The party will also hold a number of walkthroughs in the various districts to touch base with residents in the communities. The eleven NA candidates expected to attend the meeting are Marlin; Frans Richardson; George Pantophlet; Rodolphe Samuel; Henrietta Doran-York; Patrick Illidge; Roland Duncan; Silveria Jacobs, Louis Engel; Terry Peterson and Hyacinth Richardson. □

## Firm can't prove it applied for hospital building permit

CAY HILL--Lievense Consulting Engineering, which was hired by St. Maarten Medical Center (SMMC) to coordinate and supervise SMMC's major expansion project, cannot prove that it applied for the building permit for the project.

The hospital was expected to start its major expansion this month, but while SMMC has received permits for two smaller projects, there has been some confusion as to whether the request for the permit for the general expansion was submitted. SMMC General Director Dr. George Scot said Tuesday that while Lievense had informed the hospital earlier that it had submitted the request last year, when asked this week to prove it the company indicated it couldn't find the paperwork. Scot said the Public Works Department was not at fault, but rather Lievense was.

The request for the permit is expected to be resubmitted today. It could not be ascertained how this will affect the hospital's major expansion, the largest since SMMC opened in 1991, but Scot said Lievense would have to bear the consequences of whatever delays occurred as a result.

"It's not ROB (Environmental Development and Property Management, ed.) to blame, but it is Lievense. We have a contract with Lievense, so whatever issue arises, it will be handled in the context of the contract," Scot said. "I think that it's important that we now have clarity that it still needs to be submitted."

In the meantime, the office of Public Works Commissioner Theo Heyliger said the office had an open door policy to assist any applicant with information regarding his/her request to obtain a building permit.

The major expansion of SMMC was originally expected to start this month and the new facilities were expected to open in March 2011, barring any unforeseen circumstances.

SMMC shelled out one million guilders for the drawings for the project. To be constructed are a new Emergency Room (ER) with an entrance at the roundabout near the hospital, a new operating theatre with four operating rooms, a Medium Care Unit with 22 beds and a new Intensive Care Unit (ICU) with six beds. The Island Government has committed close to NAf. 5.7 million to the project in the form of a subsidy to be dispersed in annual instalments of NAf. 1,122,060. SMMC is also expected to take out a loan to finance the project. The expansion of the hospital is expected to significantly enhance the delivery of health care in St. Maarten.

Scot, who started at SMMC in 2003, has been working on the expansion of the hospital since 2004. He had said in an earlier interview that the hospital was a very healthy organisation with just one debt – a General Old Age Insurance AOV tab that was currently being settled.

In the meantime, SMMC has received two permits, one as recently as yesterday. One is for the renovation of the doctors' offices while the other is for the renovation of the Radiology Department. □





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## Eric Yuan Sam autopsy set for possibly Friday

*Surveillance cameras pinpoint suspects*

PHILIPSBURG -- The postmortem on the body of the late Dutch Quarter Afoo Supermarket manager Eric Yuan Sam should be carried out "hopefully" this Friday, according to Prosecutor Jan Bart Develing.

As is customary, the pathologist will be arriving from Curaçao to carry out the autopsy.

In the meantime, the prosecutor insisted that despite much speculation, no suspect had been arrested in this brutal murder, which took place inside the Dutch Quarter Afoo Supermarket on December 30.

Through the supermarket's surveillance cameras,



however, police were able to obtain "very clear shots" of the four suspects in question, he said, adding that the investigation into the murder was progressing and police would be able to identify the suspects. □

## Ceremony in tragic Knowle pilot's memory

A MOVING ceremony was held in the Caribbean last week - paying tribute to Knowle pilot Robert Mansell.

Hundreds of people turned out at the Curacao International Airport, before the 32-year-old's body was flown home.

Eric Hagedoorn was one of the Dutchmen who survived the plane crash which claimed Mr Mansell's life.

At the ceremony he read a letter, paying tribute to the pilot's quick thinking - which had saved the lives of all nine passengers on board.

"Robert, I want you to know that I am grateful that I can see you are on your way to your final rest place in England," said the survivor.

"That was the least we could do for you."

Emily de Jongh-Elhage, Prime Minister for the Netherland Antilles, where the crash took place, was among others to speak at the ceremony.

A coffin draped with the Union Jack was carried onto the waiting Boeing 747. The body was then flown back to Britain, with the plane touching down at Birmingham International Airport - where Mr Mansell's family were waiting.

Since the tragedy in October, efforts had been made to raise the aircraft from the ocean bed and recover Mr Mansell's body. A special ship was finally brought in to raise the plane and the operation was completed this month.

Aviation experts are now probing the cause of the tragedy. □





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**CASA DEL MAR**

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# FARC son cínicas y asesinas dice presidente Colombia

BOGOTA (Reuters) - Las FARC son un grupo asesino, mentiroso y cínic que pretende justificar sus crímenes con discursos doctorales, dijo el miércoles el presidente de Colombia, Alvaro Uribe, al reaccionar a un comunicado de la guerrilla que admitió el asesinato de un gobernador.

Las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) aceptaron el asesinato del gobernador del departamento de Caquetá, Luis Francisco Cuéllar, lo calificaron como un hecho indeseado y aclararon que con el secuestro buscaban someterlo a un juicio político por supuestos delitos en su administración.

Las FARC acusaron al político de vínculos con los escuadrones paramilitares de ultraderecha, aseguraron que el secuestro tampoco tenía motivaciones económicas y responsabilizaron del desenlace fatal a Uribe por ordenar su rescate con una persecución militar.

“Este grupo narcoterrorista de las FARC es asesino



Las FARC son un grupo asesino, mentiroso y cínic que pretende justificar sus crímenes con discursos doctorales, dijo el miércoles el presidente de Colombia, Alvaro Uribe (foto), al reaccionar a un comunicado de la guerrilla que admitió el asesinato de un gobernador. REUTERS/Adam Hunger/Archivo

## Argentina: Presidente del Banco Central se niega a renunciar

BUENOS AIRES (AP) - La presidenta Cristina Fernández le pidió el miércoles la renuncia al titular del Banco Central, Martín Redrado, por rehusarse a ceder parte de las reservas internacionales para pagar la deuda externa, pero el economista se negó, lo que podría desatar una crisis institucional. “El pedido de renuncia lo hizo el jefe de gabinete por orden de la presidenta y Redrado le respondió que no iba a renunciar y que si el Poder Ejecutivo tiene intención de removerlo se ajuste a los mecanismos establecidos en la carta orgánica del Banco Central” que estipula que el titular de la entidad sólo puede ser removido por el Congreso, explicó a la AP el portavoz de Redrado, que prefirió mantener su nombre bajo reserva. Redrado tiene mandato hasta septiembre.

El jefe de gabinete Aníbal Fernández advirtió que si Redrado no renuncia a su cargo, el gobierno lo denunciará ante la justicia. “Habiendo recibido instrucciones precisas

respecto de la normativa (que crea el fondo con reservas del Banco Central) no las está cumpliendo y esa es una falta de deberes de un funcionario público”, dijo al canal de cable Todo Noticias (TN).

En tanto, el economista Mario Blejer --quien según el jefe de gabinete había sido designado sucesor de Redrado-- afirmó al diario El Cronista que la entidad monetaria “ya tiene su presidente, que es Martín Redrado, y eso me inhibe para considerar la oferta”. Blejer fue titular del Central en 2002, bajo la presidencia de Eduardo Duhalde. El eje de la disputa entre el Ejecutivo y Redrado es un decreto presidencial de diciembre que estableció la creación de un fondo especial de 6.569 millones de dólares compuesto por reservas del Banco Central para hacer frente a los vencimientos de deuda, que en 2010 sumarán 13.000 millones de dólares. Según el último dato oficial disponible, las reservas del Banco Central alcanzan a 47.967 millones de dólares. □

y mentiroso. Y es cínic. Derrama sangre, y enseguida escribe comunicados doctorales. Derrama sangre, y miente. Pero no nos extraña. Es que ellos siempre han mentido”, dijo Uribe en declaraciones a una radio local del sur del país.

El asesinato del mandatario regional, degollado por los rebeldes horas después de su secuestro en la ciudad de Florencia, la capital de Caquetá, el 21 de diciembre, ha sido considerado como el más alevoso crimen de las FARC en el Gobierno de Uribe.

El secuestro y asesinato fueron calificados por analistas como un golpe a la política de seguridad de Uribe y una demostración de poder de la guerrilla al cometerse en una de las zonas con más presencia de efectivos de las Fuerzas Armadas y en donde se concentra la ofensiva militar contra los rebeldes.

### CAPTURAN PRESUNTO RESPONSABLE

El mandatario reiteró su decisión de acabar con la guerrilla, el narcotráfico y con otros grupos armados ilegales responsables de la violencia que azota al país de más de 44 millones de habitantes

exportador de petróleo, carbón, café y flores.

“Por eso, a esos bandidos, todos, y a esas bandas terroristas del narcotráfico, a todos, a todos tenemos que acabarlos para que el país pueda vivir en paz. No hay derecho cómo este grupo asesina y miente”, aseguró el mandatario quien impulsa una ofensiva militar contra la guerrilla con el apoyo de Estados Unidos.

Horas después de la reacción del mandatario, la Fiscalía General reportó la captura en la ciudad de Medellín de Henry López Sarmiento, alias “El Paisa” o “Ricardo”, quien presuntamente fue una de las personas que planeó el secuestro de Cuéllar.

“De acuerdo con lo establecido, alias “Ricardo”, miembro de la columna móvil Teófilo Forero de las FARC, diseñó, supuestamente, la maqueta de la residencia del mandatario seccional”, dijo la fiscalía al precisar que el capturado será procesado por terrorismo, extorsión, secuestro y rebelión.

Uribe criticó a los colombianos que desde Europa defienden las acciones criminales de las FARC escribiendo comunicados que divulgan a través de la internet. □

### Ecuador:

## Crean empresa estatal de productos farmacéuticos

QUITO (AP) - El gobierno ecuatoriano creó el miércoles la Empresa Nacional de Fármacos (Enfarma) que producirá medicamentos genéricos para consumo local y exportación sin fines de lucro. En el acto de presentación de la nueva empresa, que tendrá un capital inicial de tres millones de dólares, el ministro coordinador de Política Económica Diego Borja señaló que “el objetivo de esta empresa no es... el autofinanciamiento, el objetivo es el servicio y en ese sentido tiene financiamiento estatal”. El gerente de Enfarma, Roberto Tadeo, expresó que “el objetivo es que a mediados de este año se pueda iniciar con la producción de medicamentos genéricos y en un año con la producción de otros fármacos... y a partir de cinco años poder cubrir (el mercado interno) y empezar la exportación”. □



# Presidente facto Honduras dice no renunciará pese a presión EEUU

TEGUCIGALPA (Reuters)

- El presidente de facto de Honduras, Roberto Micheletti, dijo el miércoles que no cederá a las nuevas presiones de Estados Unidos para renunciar antes del 27 de enero, cuando asumirá el poder el mandatario electo, Porfirio Lobo.

Micheletti, que asumió el poder el 28 de junio tras un golpe militar contra el presidente Manuel Zelaya, ha resistido las presiones para abandonar el poder, una de las condiciones para que el país vuelva a recibir vital ayuda internacional.

“La sucesión constitucional dice que yo tengo que estar en el poder hasta el 27 de enero.

No me voy a ir si no hay un acto legal que me permita a mí retirarme”, dijo Micheletti en declaraciones al programa televisivo Frente a Frente.

“Yo no voy a cambiar porque vengan aquí a presionarme”, dijo Micheletti poco antes de reunirse con el subsecretario de Estado adjunto para el Hemisferio Occidental de

*En México*

## Cuatro sacerdotes violan celibato y se retiran

PUEBLA, México (AP) - La arquidiócesis del central estado mexicano de Puebla dijo que cuatro sacerdotes decidieron separarse de la Iglesia tras violar el celibato. El vocero de la arquidiócesis, el reverendo Eugenio Lira, sostuvo que los sacerdotes fueron sorprendidos con sus parejas sentimentales o con menores de edad, y que renunciaron a sus cargos tras entrevistarse con el arzobispo Víctor Sánchez. Lira no facilitó la identidad de los sacerdotes ni la de sus parroquias.

El celibato es una condición indispensable para ser sacerdote. Las autoridades eclesásticas de Puebla han sido criticadas por haber protegido presuntamente al padre Nicolás Aguilar, un sacerdote acusado de cometer abusos deshonestos con decenas de muchachos en México y Estados Unidos. El Vaticano suspendió el año pasado las funciones sacerdotales de Aguilar, quien sigue prófugo. □



El líder de facto de Honduras Roberto Micheletti habla en una ceremonia de graduación de un programa especial para jóvenes en Tegucigalpa, 5 ene 2010. El presidente de facto de Honduras, Roberto Micheletti, dijo el miércoles que no cederá a las nuevas presiones de Estados Unidos para renunciar antes del 27 de enero, cuando asumirá el poder el mandatario electo, Porfirio Lobo. REUTERS/Edgard Garrido

Estados Unidos, Craig Kelly. Kelly, que ya intentó antes gestiones en Honduras, se entrevistó el martes con Zelaya y con Lobo y prevé hacerlo el miércoles con Micheletti para

intentar reactivar el acuerdo San José-Tegucigalpa, que prevé la creación de un Gobierno de unidad nacional y la renuncia del presidente de facto.

Washington quiere que Micheletti renuncie antes del

15 de enero para que se forme el gobierno de unidad, lo que permitiría la reanudación de las relaciones internacionales y la normalización de la ayuda internacional suspendida tras el golpe, según el mismo gobernante de facto y Lobo.

Lobo dijo que Estados Unidos “apunta a que se cumpla el acuerdo San José-Tegucigalpa en su totalidad. Ellos están con su posición de que no debe haber ni vencedores ni vencidos para que el nuevo gobierno inicie una relación internacional reconstruida”.

Zelaya fue derrocado y expulsado del país a punta de rifle por militares, cuando se disponía a celebrar una consulta popular que había sido prohibida por un juez y que abría el camino a la reelección presidencial.

En septiembre regresó clandestinamente al país y desde entonces permanece refugiado en la embajada de Brasil, país que junto con varios países latinoamericanos no reconocen las elecciones de noviembre en las que resultó electo Lobo debido a que fueron organizados por un gobierno ilegítimo.

El Congreso hondureño podría votar el 15 de enero una amnistía que permitiría a Zelaya, acusado de violar la Constitución y sobre quien pende orden de arresto, abandonar la embajada. □

## Perú se defenderá en caso de recompensa por captura de Montesinos

LIMA (AP) - El gobierno peruano defenderá los intereses del estado en el litigio judicial que le entabló un ciudadano venezolano exigiendo el pago de una millonaria recompensa por colaborar con la captura del ex jefe de inteligencia Vladimiro Montesinos, y que se ventilará la próxima semana en segunda instancia.

El ministro de Justicia Aurelio Pastor dijo que este fin de semana partirá a Estados Unidos para reunirse el lunes con los abogados del estado peruano que sustentarán sus alegatos el miércoles 13 en una audiencia pública.

Un juzgado de la ciudad de Miami falló en diciembre del 2008 a favor del venezolano José Guevara al sentenciar que el gobierno de Perú debía pagarle una suma total de 8,2 millones de dólares --los cinco millones ofrecidos inicialmente más intereses-- como recompensa por haber dado pistas que condujeron a la captura de Montesinos en Caracas en junio del 2001.

El gobierno peruano alegó que debía aplicarse

la inmunidad soberana de los estados para no hacerse responsable del pago.

Pastor dijo que su viaje a Estados Unidos para ver personalmente el asunto se debe a que se trata de “temas que pueden afectar de manera importante los derechos del estado peruano”.

Guevara protegió y ocultó a Montesinos cuando se encontraba fugitivo en Venezuela, luego de la caída del gobierno de Alberto Fujimori en noviembre del 2000. El venezolano fue arrestado en Miami cuando intentaba retirar dinero de una cuenta de Montesinos por instrucciones de éste, y fue convencido de colaborar con los agentes estadounidenses.

Montesinos purga prisión en Perú desde el 2001 acusado de decenas de delitos de corrupción, narcotráfico, y violaciones a los derechos humanos cometidos durante el régimen autoritario de Fujimori (1990-2000), del cual fue asesor personal y hombre de confianza. □





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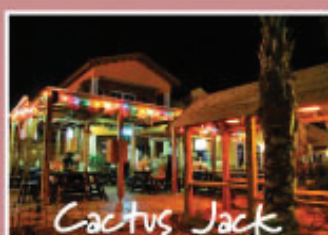


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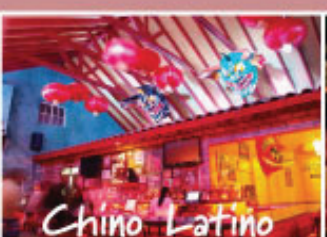
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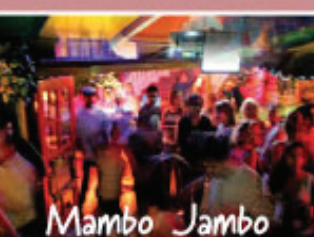
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